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The History  
of  
Early Fort Dodge  
and  
Webster County,  
Iowa

By  
MAJOR W.M. WILLIAMS

Edited  
By  
EDWARD BREEN

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1950  
BY  
KVFD-KFMY  
FORT DODGE, IOWA

FIRST EDITION 1950

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DEDICATED TO THE  
THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE  
WHO MADE OUR  
CENTENNIAL  
AUGUST 23, 1950  
THE MEMORABLE  
DAY THAT IT WAS.



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## PREFACE

This history of early Fort Dodge and Webster County was written by Major William Williams. The original manuscripts from which it is compiled are the property of the Webster County Historical Society. The history has never before been published and because Major Williams died before it was in its final form, it was to some degree repetitious. I have attempted to edit it as I feel Major Williams would have, had he lived to put his manuscripts in print.

Major Williams was the founder of Fort Dodge. He was with the first men who came here to establish the fort. He was the town's first postmaster and first mayor. Among his direct descendants in Fort Dodge are a great grandson and a great granddaughter, John Atwell and Mrs. Adolph Weiss, and all of the sons and daughters of Mr. and Mrs. John Atwell are great, great grandchildren of Major William Williams.

When the Major started this history he began with an introduction telling who he was. "I was born in Greensburgh, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, on the 6th day of December, 1796. I was raised and educated amongst the frontier men of that day, men who had served in the Revolution and in the frontier wars with the Indians. I always delighted in hearing those old men relate their experiences. When the British and Indians under Tecumseh attacked our

frontiers in Ohio and Indiana, everyone was excited, from the time of the Battle of Tippecanoe was fought until the victory of Jackson at Orleans, particularly when the British burned Washington City, all the old and young were ready to march. I commenced in great earnest to study Military Science; my aim was to get a position in the Army. When 16 years of age, I got my father's consent to join a Company which was intended to supply the place of one then out, but the news of peace being proclaimed caused the orders to be countermanded before we had time to reach Harrison's Army."

Major Williams then gives a rather detailed account of his business experience, which was principally in the field of banking, finally taking him to Hallidaysburg, Pennsylvania, where he was the cashier of the Pittsburgh Branch Bank.

In 1842 when the Major was 46 years old, his first wife died, an event which probably changed the entire course of his life because he goes on to say, "I was tendered the command of the Third Regiment in the Fenian cause, intended to act in concert with Smith O'Brien in Ireland. This regiment was made up of returned officers and soldiers who had served in Mexico."

He apparently accepted this appointment because he went to Canada and I quote—"to ascertain the British troops and their number, etc., which duty I



attended to but I find I am running into history. I will quit that subject by stating that the Smith O'Brien movement in Ireland proved a failure, which put an end to all our Canada invasion." "This," Major Williams said, "took place early in 1849. On my trip to the Canada line, I was so much pleased with Iowa, I concluded to emigrate to that state. In March of 1849, I set out for Iowa. I brought out 141 emigrants. Upon my arrival at Muscatine, I found there was trouble with the Indians, and three companies of United States troops under the command of Major Samuel Woods landed at Muscatine on the way to Indian town. Being acquainted with the majority of the officers, I accompanied them to the site selected to establish a post (Fort Clark or Fort Dodge)".

This is Major Williams' introduction to his history and the story he tells of how he came to be a part of the group that originally established Fort Dodge.

Major William Williams' manuscripts from which this history is compiled, in the course of time came into the hands of his granddaughter, Mrs. Guy Woolington. Mrs. Woolington, in turn, gave them to the Webster County Historical Society. Since that time they have been in the keeping of Miss Maude Lauderdale, curator of the Society, and it was she who first suggested their use in connection with the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Fort Dodge. It is with Mrs. Guy Woolington's express permission that

this publication is made for the first time of Major William Williams' early history of Fort Dodge and Webster County.

I read the manuscripts through with great interest and prepared them for broadcast on the air over KVFD-KFMY, Fort Dodge, much as they appear in this book. I read them on the air in eighteen quarter hour periods, at 7:30 each evening, Monday through Friday, from July 31, 1950, to August 25, 1950. This presentation was sponsored by the Fort Dodge Laboratories as part of the Centennial celebration. Scott Barrett, president of that company, and Lou Ruebel, advertising manager, first suggested the printing of this history, and during the course of the broadcasts many people said they would like to have copies in book form. This book is the result.

EDWARD BREEN,  
KVFD-KFMY,  
Fort Dodge, Iowa.

October 1, 1950

## CHAPTER I

### MATTERS LEADING UP TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FORT DODGE

The territory of Fort Des Moines and east of the Des Moines River (originally known as the river of the Sioux) was included in the purchase made by the Commissioners of the United States from the Sac and Fox Indians October 11, 1842. To prevent a continuance of the warfare between the Sac, Fox and Potawattamies and the Sioux Indians, by desire of the Sac and Fox Indians and for their protection, it was stipulated that a Military Post should be established at the junction of the Des Moines and Racoon Rivers and sufficient force maintained there to afford them security from hostile incursions of their enemy, the Sioux. In pursuance of the stipulation, the Fort was established and named Fort Des Moines. Fort Des Moines was established in May of 1843, and finally abandoned in June, 1846. The territory then lying north and west of the Racoon Forks was comparatively an unexplored region of country, the habitation of the wild Sioux Indians and ranges of the buffalo and elk.

The only exploration of the country north of Racoon Forks previously attempted was by Captain Boon of the United States Dragoons. His route was up the Des Moines River to Racoon Forks, thence up the River of the Sioux to the forks twelve miles north of where Fort Dodge is now situated, and from thence up the west side of the east branch to Chain Lakes, a point near the state line. There the Sioux Indians, after watching his movements for some time, met him and gave battle. It was after a severe brush with these Indians, that he turned his course eastward to Lake Albert Lee (which was named after Lieutenant Albert Lee of his Company) and from thence to Fort Crawford and down the Mississippi back to Camp Des Moines.

In 1848, government surveying of the land purchased north of the Racoon Forks was commenced. Mr. Marsh of Dubuque set out from Dubuque to run a correction line from a point on the Mississippi River near Dubuque, to the Missouri River. He progressed with his work without molestation until he and his company crossed the Sioux or Des Moines River, where he was met by the Sioux Indians under the lead of a chief named Sidom-i-na-do-tah, generally known afterwards by the name of Two Fingers, who ordered him to puc a chee (clear out—be off) and gave him to know that the land belonged to him and that the surveying party should proceed no further. The In-

dians left the surveyors on the west bank of the river. After some hesitation, Mr. Marsh concluded to go ahead and he and his company had not proceeded a mile from the river, when at a point at the head of a large ravine, the Indians surrounded them in force and robbed them of everything, taking their horses, breaking their wagons and surveying instruments, pulling up their stakes and forcing them back across the river to find their way home the best they could. This surveying party was not provided with firearms to make any defense.

When the first settlers came into Webster County they found that the notorious Henry Lott had squatted at the mouth of Boon\* River. Lott was a bad man, a refugee from justice, and kept on the outskirts of all settlements. He was charged with being one of a gang of horse thieves, headed by the notorious Carsner, who figured in the neighborhood of Fort Des Moines. When the military garrisoned that Post, the troops there hunted them down and succeeded in capturing the leading spirit Jonas Carsner. Captain Allen delivered Carsner over to the Indians, who took him out, tied him to a tree and gave him a most unmerciful whipping. After that occurrence these outlaws established their headquarters further north, at the mouth of the Boon River where Lott built his cabin. As early as 1847 all stolen horses were taken to that

\* This spelling of Boone is used by the Major throughout his history.



point and from there run off for disposal. Horses stolen in Missouri were run off to Wisconsin, and those stolen in Wisconsin were taken to Missouri. Lott was a keen, smart man, and although arrested and tried several times, he managed to avoid conviction by having witnesses prove that he had purchased the horses found in his possession. So numerous was the band that he could have witnesses to swear him through. Finally in 1848, the Indians loosing several of their horses, traced them to Lott's quarters, where they pitched in to him and ran him and his party off.

The Indians attacked Lott in the winter when the river was frozen. Lott ran down the river on the ice, leaving his family at the mercy of the Indians, who took all the horses they could find, killed his cattle and robbed his cabin of sundry articles, but did not harm his family. In the melee a little son of Lott's followed his father on the ice and was frozen to death, the boy was about 14 years of age.

After a few settlers came in, Lott returned to his cabin, and was a terror to all. He was viewed as an outlaw and desperate character, who from the early settlements of the State, kept in advance of all settlements. He applied to the government for indemnity for Indian depredations claiming over \$3000, but his character was so well known that the citizens generally protested against allowing his claim. He frequently swore, if he was not allowed his claim, he

would take it out in killing Indians. During the time the troops remained at the Fort there was a good lookout kept up for Lott's operations.

The Indians also attacked and robbed Jacob Mericle, Lodewick Mericle and one or two other families who had settled in Boon Forks in the fall of 1848, and roving bands were constantly committing depredations on settlers who ventured north or northwest of Fort Des Moines. After the troops abandoned the post the Indians became more bold and petitions were forwarded by the settlers praying for protection. As a result, it was determined to establish a military post at some point on the northern frontier for the purpose of keeping the Indians in check.

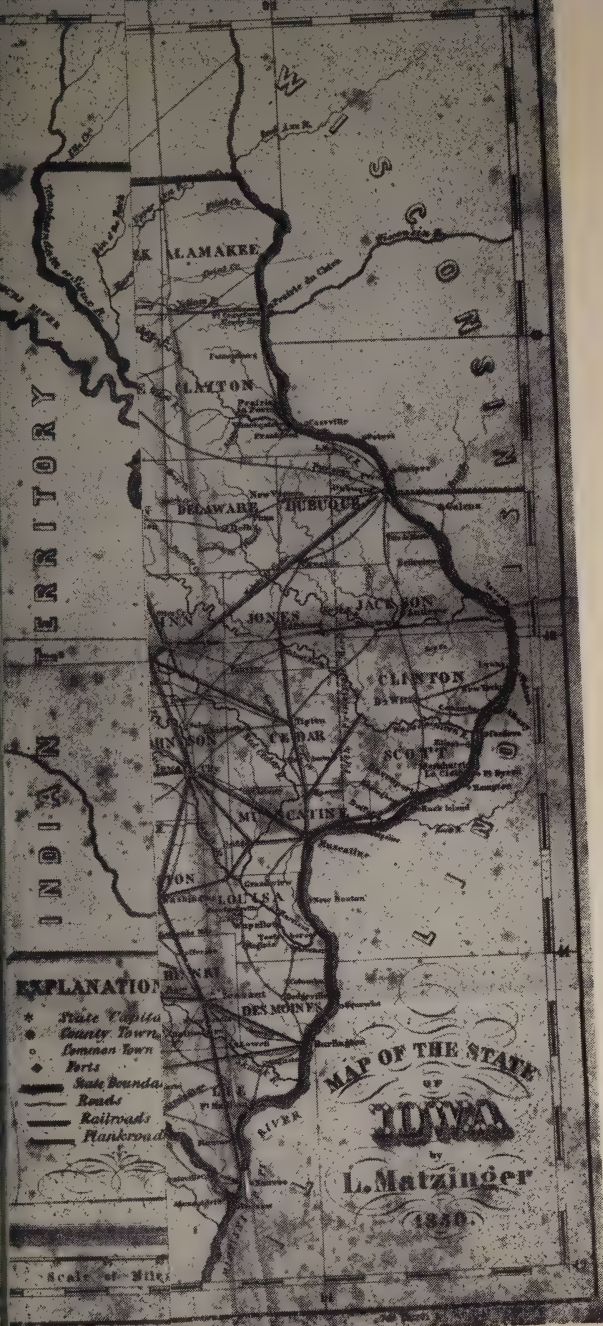
Early in 1849, Brevet General Mason, Colonel of the 6th Regiment of the U. S. Infantry, was directed to select a site for a fort as near as practicable to the northwest corner of the neutral ground running from the Des Moines River to a point below Dubuque. The northwest corner post of this neutral territory stands on the east bank of the Des Moines River about three miles north of Fort Dodge, where the north line commences.

This neutral ground was established by treaty between the Sac and Fox Indians, the Sioux Indians and the U. S. Government. Owing to the murderous warfare kept up between those Indians, the Government interfered and brought about a treaty between them,

and this neutral ground was established for the purpose of keeping them apart. The Sacs and Foxes and Sioux ceded to the United States Government a strip of land reaching from the Des Moines River to the Mississippi to a point near Dubuque. This strip was 40 miles in width. This arrangement for a time kept these Indians apart, but the Sioux, who are ever treacherous, finally took advantage of the fact that this neutral ground did not extend further west than the Des Moines River and they commenced their depredations anew on the Indians and settlers to the south. This brought them in conflict with the Potawatamies with whom they had many severe conflicts.

General Mason, in the performance of the duty assigned him, selected the site where Fort Dodge now stands on the east bank of the Des Moines River about one quarter of a mile below the mouth of the Lizard River. At the same time, great excitement prevailed amongst the frontier settlers in Johnston, Iowa, and Tama counties, owing to the return of a large body of Sac and Fox Indians, seven hundred or eight hundred in number, who had returned from Kansas and had taken possession of the country lying north of Marengo on the Iowa River, their chief village being at what has since been called Indian Town.\*

\* That site is near what is now the Tama Reservation.







# MINNESOTA TERRITORY



- PLANATION**
- State Capital
  - County Town
  - Indian Town
  - Port
  - State Boundary
  - Roads
  - Railroads
  - Rankroads

Scale of Miles

MAP OF THE STATE  
OF  
**IOWA**  
by  
**L. Matzinger**  
1850.



Upon application of the citizens, the government directed that the Indians should be removed. For that purpose three companies of troops were ordered from Fort Snelling to perform this duty. After delivering the Indians to the commanding officer at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, the Dragoons and Company C returned to Fort Snelling and Company E, United States Infantry, under the command of Brevet Major Samuel Woods was ordered to the Des Moines to the point selected by General Mason to establish a garrison and build a post there. Officers and men of this detachment had served through the Mexican War and many of them in Florida. When they took up the line of march for the Des Moines River, all believed from the character that was generally ascribed to the country, that they were again to be stationed in a land similar to Florida, a country of lakes, ponds and swamps, and destitute of timber but they were very agreeably disappointed. We took up the line of march from Camp Buckner on the Iowa River, which was located in Southwest Tama county, on the last day of July, 1850, and after a tedious march, having a heavily loaded train of wagons, crossing streams, avoiding sloughs, through an uninhabited country, we arrived at the point designated on the 23rd of August, 1850.

## CHAPTER II

### THE BUILDING OF FORT DODGE, ITS COMMANDING OFFICERS AND ARMY LIFE AT THE FORT

Upon their arrival, the troops encamped on the second bench of land from the river, the right of the line resting near the southeast corner of the Public Square, as now laid off in the Town Plat of Fort Dodge, the left resting near the southwest corner of Walnut and Fifth streets, the whole fronting west. This location with the streets as they are now named, runs from the southwest corner of the city square to the corner of First avenue south and Sixth streets. On reaching the point, after examination of the surrounding districts, the officers were much pleased with the location, the fine body of timber above and below, the springs and streams together with the appearance of stone and coal. All admired the location and pronounced it the most beautiful part of Iowa they had seen. The men were at once set to work, getting out timber, quarrying stone and preparing materials generally for building quarters.

Major L. A. Armistead, the Quarter Master, as soon as possible, brought on and put in motion a steam saw mill, also brought on a number of citizen mechanics,



carpenters, masons, brickmakers from Keokuk and other Mississippi towns, there being but a few mechanics amongst the troops. The first three months all were employed very diligently at work. Great efforts were made to have the buildings up and habitable before the winter set in. They succeeded in putting up twelve of the buildings and making them habitable by the middle of November by putting on temporary roofs (clapboard). The 20th of November of 1850, they struck their tents and took possession of the buildings. The following season the balance of the buildings, twenty-one in all, were put up and finished. On taking possession of the buildings in honor of General Clarke, then a Colonel of the 6th Regiment of the United States Infantry (to which Regiment the detachments belonged), the post was named Fort Clarke.

The officers stationed at this Post were Brevet Major Samuel Woods; Commandant of the Post, Brevet Major L. A. Armistead, Acting Commandary; Lieutenant Stubbs, Lieutenant I. L. Corley; Surgeon Charles Keeny, ranking as Captain, and Sutler William Williams.

When we first arrived on the site selected for building the fort, we formed the encampments as before stated and the men were set to work, under their several leaders of details. Their labors were severe and they had many privations to undergo, but a soldier's disposition grows very facile and readily accommo-

dates itself to every change of circumstances. Their gay songs and loud laughter at evening, mingled with the dashings of the river and the beating of the morning drums, accompanied by the shrill fifes at reveille and tattoo and at the several calls through the day, awakened to new responses the echoes of the surrounding hills and gave the western breezes their first lessons in our national melodies.

When we came to this post and for 3 years after, this country abounded with wild game—buffalo, elk, deer, bear, panthers, lynx, wild cats and catamounts were numerous. Buffalo wallows and trails were to be seen in every direction. The buffalo were crossing the river below us for some time after we came here. One of their regular crossing places below us on the river was on Section 29, near where Major Strong now lives, another was on section 19, below the mouth of Lizard river, a third was a short distance below the mouth of Badger Creek. As emigrants came in, the buffalo gradually fell back to the north. There were also the large white wolf, the black wolf, the brindle wolf and a great number of prairie wolves. The wild turkeys and wild geese, swans and every variety of the wild duck were very numerous. The wolves became very bold in the night. They would surround the buildings and make desperate efforts to get at the venison and other meat hanging about the quarters of the men. It being contrary to orders for either sentinels or any



others to fire at them, they continued to be very annoying the two first winters. Finally the men resorted to the use of strychnine and killed them off.

When the plan for building and the arrangements of the buildings were under consideration, it was determined to build them as convenient as possible to the fine springs and where they would be sheltered from the northwest winds by the grove of timber. It was also the opinion of all the officers, that owing to the beauty of the location, its resources and healthy position, at no very distant day a town of some importance would be built up on the site. They came to these conclusions from the examination of maps and finding it varied but six miles from a straight line from Dubuque to the South Pass in the Rocky Mountains. South Pass at that time was the great point that all emigrants bound to California were making for. Reasoning in this way, they placed the buildings in line forming one side of a street.

The main buildings of the Fort were built along the north side of Williams Street. Williams Street has now become First Avenue north. They started down at the foot of the hill toward the river. The first building at the foot of the hill was a theatre building which the soldiers erected. It later was torn down by the railroad company. Up the hill along Williams Street, and just below north Third street were four houses occupied by soldiers who had families and

whose wives did the laundry for the garrison. Just above these houses and back of them were the blacksmith, coal houses and the laundries. On the corner of Third street and First avenue north stood the commissary building. The United States Land Office later opened in this building on November 5, 1855. Beside this rather large building, was built a carpenter's shop and the dwelling of a laundress. To the north and down along Soldier's Creek were built the garrison stables, corn cribs, and a large stockade or enclosure which served a dual purpose as shed for oxen, cattle and livestock and also as a place of refuge in case of attack by the Indians.

Coming back to First Avenue north between Third and Fourth streets and next to the Commissary Building, there was a small building for a hospital. That building was afterwards used for the first store in Fort Dodge, kept by James B. Williams. Later Major Williams had his office as postmaster in the back part of the building. Still later, the Sentinel, the first Fort Dodge newspaper was printed in the building. Beside this hospital was built the "Sons of Temperance Hall." This building was used by the soldiers for temperance lectures and as a kind of chapel.

To the east of this building and up the hill was located the bakery. The general quarters for the men with a mess room and kitchen attached were built to

the east of this.\* Beside it was built the guard house and next to it, the adjutant's house.\*\* This was later occupied by Chris Arnold, the first barber. Afterwards he became the owner of Arnold's Mill.

The quarters of Major L. A. Armistead, Lieutenant L. S. Corley and Lieutenant Stubbs were built next across the street to the east; and still farther to the east of them was built the quarters of Major Samuel Woods, Commandant of the post. After the troops left, this was the homestead of Major Williams.

The final government building along Williams Street or First Avenue north was the quarters of Major Williams while the troops were here. It was built by him, but was afterwards the site of the home of his son, James B. Williams.\*\*\*

In addition to these buildings there were sentry boxes, root houses, etc., all of which have been destroyed. In connection with the Fort there was a steam saw mill, a dwelling house and stabling which stood on the bank of the Des Moines, nearly opposite the mouth of the Lizard River. Also an ice house which stood on the bank of the Des Moines, below the mouth of the Lizard.

In the spring of 1851, under the regulations of the Army, requiring the troops stationed at outposts or

\* About where the Wahkonsa School now stands.

\*\* This log building has since been moved to Oleson Park, where it is on display.

\*\*\* The Y. M. C. A. building now stands on that site. (1950).

frontier posts to raise their necessary supplies of corn, oats and vegetables, the men were detailed for farming purposes and they commenced fencing and breaking up land for farming. The flag staff stood near the Mound on the west side of what is now laid out as the Public Square. The parade grounds were in front of the line of buildings extending from Sixth street to Third street.

In the spring of 1851, the officers brought on their wives and families who had remained at Fort Snelling till the buildings were up and ready for their reception.

In the fall of 1851, by order of the Secretary of War, the name of the Fort was changed from Fort Clarke to Fort Dodge in honor of General Henry Dodge of Wisconsin, then a United States Senator from that state. This change was caused by the fact that a portion of the 6th Regiment stationed further west had built a Fort and also named it Fort Clarke, which caused confusion in forwarding supplies and mail, making the change necessary.

The Garrison was generally composed of from one hundred twenty to one hundred thirty men, besides women and children. One hundred of the men were veterans who had but a short time before, returned from Mexico, after having distinguished themselves there. About one-half of their number were Irishmen, one-fourth Germans, and the remaining fourth com-

posed of Americans and Englishmen. Amongst the rank and file of the detachments there were many young men who had fine educations (classical scholars some of them).

After our arrival sometime in the fall of 1850, some time was spent in reconnoitering the surrounding country, particularly south of us, with the view of making roads south as our supplies were ordered to be forwarded from Jefferson Barracks and St. Louis to Keokuk, and from thence by wagon to the Fort. In these explorations it was discovered that some settlers had worked their way up to Boon forks. We there found Jacob Mericle, Lodewick Mericle, D. B. Spalding and Isaac Bell, and their families.

When the troops first came to establish Fort Dodge, the above named were the only white men in the northern part of the state with the exception of two or three who had worked their way up the Cedar River in what is now called Blackhawk County, and one old man by the name of Hewett, who was found living amongst the Indians near Clear Lake, about 45 miles northeast of Fort Dodge. These were the only white men we discovered north of Iowa County, from eastern Iowa until we reached the Missouri at the mouth of the Big Sioux River where there was the remains of an old trading post of the Fur Company. There we found some aged Frenchmen who had intermarried with the Indians and were living with them.



With these exceptions there were no white men east of us or west, none north, none south, nor southwest. The whole country north, east, south and west was a vast district of country inhabited by the wild Sioux Indians and wild game.

After the quarters were finished and the officers' families arrived, we had, although limited, very pleasant society. The ladies enjoyed themselves very much, we had just enough to form a cotillion; viz—Mrs. Woods, Mrs. Stelle, her sister, Mrs. Barney and Mrs. Keeny, the wives and relatives of the officers. They could command excellent music and scarcely an evening passed without all being congregated at some one of their quarters enjoying themselves in dancing or playing chess and euchre.

The ladies were fond of hunting and frequently rode out with the officers on hunting excursions.

The soldiers got up a theatrical troupe and built a theatre and got up some excellent performances. There were two or three artists amongst them who painted and got up excellent and appropriate scenery. Many of them were young men of talent and performed well. The officers and ladies attended their performances and saw that good order was observed. The men were very much indulged in the enjoyments of any amusements when it did not interfere with their duty. Strict discipline was always observed and enforced.



### CHAPTER III

WE INVESTIGATE THE INDIANS—HUNTING AND  
FISHING—FIRST RELIGIOUS SERVICES—  
BOOTLEGGING—FIRST SETTLERS

When we first arrived at the site selected for building the Fort, no Indians were to be seen, but we found all around the site of Fort Dodge their deserted encampments and their long trodden paths. They, no doubt, had been watching our movements from the time we reached the Boon River country. They all deserted their encampments on the east side of the Des Moines river and fled to the west side, which was at the time Indian territory. After getting into quarters and everything in order, details were made for scouting through the surrounding country. A good outfit for mounting thirty men was on hand. Efforts were made to find the whereabouts of the Indians. It was soon discovered that they had, on our approach, fallen back some distance, but were discovered reconnoitering us in small parties. For nine months after our arrival, they were very shy, when seen they were on horseback and would fly upon the sight of any of our men.

The first interview had with any of them was in June, 1851, nearly a year after our arrival, when Major Woods with one or two men went across to the Lizard to hunt elk. They discovered an Indian standing some distance from them apparently watching their movements. The Major rode toward him beckoning to him to approach but the Indian stood still. The Major rode up to him and dismounted, shook hands with the Indian and mounted his horse to leave. Suddenly sixty or seventy Indians rose up out of the grass and bushes and he found himself completely surrounded. Their leader approached the Major and shook hands with him. After considerable talk, carried on by signs and otherwise, the Indians agreed to come into the fort to see him, which they did the second day after. Fifteen of their principal men came in on Sunday morning early by direction of the officers. They were received in a very friendly manner. Great anxiety was evidenced by the troops to see what kind of men they were sent out to keep in check. They were all large active Indians of unusually wild appearance. After putting aside their arms, a breakfast was prepared for them and every kindness bestowed upon them. Being Sabbath morning, the hour arrived for turn out on dress parade. When the drums and fifes struck up the assembly for parade and inspection, the Indians became alarmed particularly so when they saw the men turn out into line with their arms. The

Indians ran for their arms and wanted to be off. It took considerable effort to induce them to stay longer, but finally they were reconciled and after witnessing the parade and inspection, and the men dismissed and returned to their quarters, they were satisfied that no harm was intended. They remained in the garrison until evening when they left. This was the first interview with the Indians after we arrived on the Des Moines, and, no doubt, had the effect of intimidating them, seeing the force and manner in which our troops were armed. After this interview with the Indians, they came in frequently in small parties begging for provisions and trading off their furs. Many of them were engaged (in the fall and winter) in hunting and trapping on the Des Moines and Lizard Rivers above us. Occasionally they would pursue elk and deer down the Des Moines below us. Brushey and Soldier Creek they frequently visited.

On reconnoitering the country, it was found the main body of Indians were congregated along the Des Moines from the forks up in the neighborhood of Lizard Lake, Spirit and Okobojo Lakes, on Little Sioux River, and a body of them harbored at Buffalo Grove and the head waters of the Boon, also at Twin Lakes. Several roving bands kept aloof from this immediate district and turned their attention to plundering east, west and southwest of us, attacking and robbing all settlers who ventured up the Boyer, Coon, and other

rivers, on the west and up the Cedar River and Iowa River on the east, which made it an arduous duty to keep them in check. Route them in the west—and they would fly to the east.

The troops at the post had under their protection the settlers and others of the whole northern parts of Iowa from the headwaters of the Maquoketa and Cedar rivers to the Missouri. The first Indian outrage committed was on an old man by the name of Green, who with three or four young men ventured up the Coon River to trap and hunt near where Sac City is now located. They attacked and robbed them of their horses and all they had. Soon after, they assailed Captain Tolcott's party which was engaged in running the State line. Ish-ta-ha-ba with a party of warriors rushed upon them and wanted to stop them under the pretext that they had killed several buffalo, which the Indians claimed as their cattle, and they demanded the Captain's oxen in return for the buffalo killed. After some parleying, the Captain succeeded in getting up the rear division of his force (his force in all amounted to 80 men) which caused the Indians to withdraw, seeing they had a well-armed force 80 strong to contend with. This occurred in the fall of 1851.

A portion of the troops were kept constantly on the alert, scouting and watching the movements of these Indians. We were frequently called upon to

remove parties of the Sac, Fox and Pottawattamie Indians who were continually returning to the state after they were removed to the country assigned them west of the Missouri; they being dissatisfied with the country. The several surveying parties north and west of us were frequently alarmed and annoyed by them. For three years while the troops were here, game was abundant, particularly buffalo, elk and deer, also small game was plentiful, such as wild turkeys, pheasants, swans, geese and ducks. We frequently had visitors—officers from other posts and gentlemen who came up to this country to hunt. They always were received with the greatest attention and every effort was made to enable them to enjoy themselves in fishing and hunting. The rivers abounded with the finest fish and the surrounding country with game and water fowl.

We had no regular chaplain at the Fort, but were frequently visited by clergymen of the Methodist denomination. The first sermon preached in Fort Dodge was preached by Rev. I. H. Burleigh of the Methodist Church (now stationed at Algona). He came to the Fort in the fall of 1851 and reported himself as a clergyman and delivered a temperance address in the evening by request of the men, after which the Commissary prepared accommodations for him by pitching a hospital tent where he held a three day meeting very much to the gratification of the officers and men.



After him, the Rev. Montgomery, now of Boon County, preached for us a portion of his time. The officers and men by contribution paid him liberally for his services. He continued to preach for us during the stay of the troops at this post. There was no compulsion to attend church, but a large portion of the men were very punctual in their attendance at church.

One of the greatest annoyances we had was the smuggling in of liquor. A set of scamps were constantly secreted around the hills and valleys in the vicinity of the Fort with liquor to sell to the soldiers. Of such old scamps Weston, John Galbreath and Banks Hall were the most troublesome. Frequently squads of men were sent out to hunt them down. Weston eluded them for some time. Finally, they found his hiding place on the banks of the Lizard. He had his supplies of liquor secreted in a hole excavated in the hillside. He was routed out and his liquor destroyed. He fled and was afterwards known as the Badger, the name given him from his burrowing in the ground. The only way to clear such fellows out of the country was to hunt them down, as the soldiers who desired their liquor would not make known where they were located, but rather aided them in hiding.

The military reservation determined on for the Fort was four miles north of the Fort and four miles south, and two miles on each side of the Des Moines River, making a strip of land eight miles in length and four



miles in breadth, with the Fort in the center. During the time the troops remained at this post, all settlers were kept off this intended reserve.

Henry Lott, the notorious character mentioned earlier in this history, came up in 1851 and built a cabin on the west side of the Des Moines on the military reservation and pretended to claim all that district where the plaster beds are. A squad of soldiers were sent out to run him off. Afterwards he went to Fort Des Moines and succeeded in selling his pretended claim to a Mr. A. Scott for \$300 in cash. Scott came on to take possession of the claim and improve it, when he was also required to leave. Several attempts were made by individuals to seize upon the land south of the Fort, but fear of the Indians kept any from venturing above until the spring of 1852.

Granville Berkley and two men, Winters and Butler, ventured above to make claims. They came into the Fort and reported themselves as being desirous of going up north of the Fort to make claims and settle. They were encouraged to do so and were promised protection. After eating their dinner, they went up the Des Moines, and after a day's absence, they returned and reported they had selected claims for each about nine miles up. They returned to Des Moines from whence they came, to fit up for a settlement on their claims. A short time after, they

returned and went to their claims where they remained for some time. In the fall, Butler who was a tailor by trade, came down to the Fort and was employed in his trade the following winter. It appeared he was the capitalist and had furnished all the tools for work, wagon, team, etc., and Berkley and Winters were to do equal work on his claim with their own. In the fall of 1852, while working here, he went up to see how they got along. He and Berkley and Winters quarreled and Butler had to give up all and quit. Next thing we heard was, Winters set out with the team to go south for provisions. He never returned. That left Berkley all alone in his glory. Surrounded by the Indians, Berkley finally sold the claim to William R. Miller and went down and settled in the Boon Forks. These were the first white men who attempted to locate north of Fort Dodge. Their claim was on the east side of the Des Moines about nine miles north of the Fort.

A few settlers had settled in the forks of the Boon and Des Moines rivers a short time before the troops arrived to take post and establish the Fort. We spent some time in exploring the country with a view to making roads, bridging streams, etc., to enable our wagon train to go through to Keokuk for our supplies which were shipped to that point from St. Louis, and to be hauled by wagons up to the Fort when we found the following persons had come up and settled on

claims in Boon Forks and about the mouth of the Boon River, viz:

Isaac Bell, Frank McGuire, Doc McGuire, Jacob Mericle, Lodewick Mericle, D. B. Spalding, Osburn Brannon, John Tolman, and Henry Lott, who were the first settlers in the territory now embraced in the counties of Webster and Hamilton.

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## CHAPTER IV

ORGANIZATION OF WEBSTER COUNTY; THE FIRST  
ASSESSOR; LAW AT HOMER; THE TROOPS LEAVE;  
LONELY DAYS; HARDSHIPS OF THE PIONEERS

The Legislature in the session of 1850-51 arranged and laid out all the north and northwestern territory in Iowa into counties. (This was done before the Indian title was extinguished to the lands lying west of the Des Moines River). In giving names to the counties, what is now named Webster County, was named Yell County; what is now Hamilton County was named Risley County, names given in honor of two colonels who fell in the Mexican War.

At the session of the Legislature 1852-53, the settlers in Boon Forks and at the mouth of the Boon, numbering about fifty—the only settlements then in the county of Yell or Risley—met for the purpose of making a central point for themselves after discovering that they were located close to the dividing line of these counties, petitioned the legislature and by misrepresentation, induced the legislature to unite the two counties, Yell and Risley, in one county, which was named Webster County.

In April, 1853, Webster County was organized. Fifty votes were polled. In August following, seventy-six votes were polled. This election may be called the first county election held. The first county officers elected were as follows: County Judge, William Pierce; registrar and recorder, Tolman Wolsey; clerk, Jesse Goodrich; school fund commissioner, John Tolman; sheriff, J. Doty; Justices of the Peace, Rev. John Johns and Lodewick Mericle; constable, John Hefley; township clerk, Sherman Hart; assessor, Samuel Eslick; county surveyor, George Warner.

Washington township was then organized, being the only township then in the county, it embraced the whole county.

In the month of June, the assessor came up to the Fort riding a young colt. He was admitted to the fort. The first place he went was into the men's quarters where he announced himself as assessor of the county, and demanded that the men present give in as he called it, all they had, having his list under one arm and the Code of Iowa under the other. There being a great many wags among the men, he soon got into trouble. They gathered around him, some disputing his authority, others taking sides with him. When they had taken their amusement out on him they referred him to some of the officers telling him to stand up to them, that the officers would try to put him off. He took on Lieutenant Corley in his

quarters. The Lieutenant very politely told him he had no business with any of the property about the garrison, but the young assessor produced the Code of Iowa to prove that he had the power to assess everything. The Lieutenant got rid of him by referring him to the Major. He went after the Major who listened to him for some time very patiently. When the Major told the assessor that all in and about the garrison was the property of the Federal Government and were exempt from their county tax, the valiant assessor became excited; read the law and stated that he was not going to be put off in that way. He had done business in Missouri and he was bound to assess all property in the county. The Major greatly amused with him, advised him to go home, and left him. He afterwards got out among the men. They had their fun with him till he mounted his colt and left, declaring he would go to Des Moines and see a lawyer. We never heard from him afterwards. In leaving he declared there was too much property here to pass over.

The valuation of the property in the county in 1850 was \$40,000. Webster County as above stated, was organized in April, 1853. In August following, it had a population of about 150 souls, all of whom were located in the immediate vicinity of Boon Forks, about 20 miles south of the Fort. They formed a Republic of their own, law and justice was administered in their



own way. Every man read the Code of Iowa and expounded the law to suit himself. Several North Carolinians and Indianans came in. Soon law suits and trouble commenced. When a suit was to be tried, all the settlers in the neighborhood would attend. At most of these, quite an array of men with rifles and half starved dogs were to be seen. A few troublesome characters got in amongst them and kept up a continual controversy, contending for claims and other difficulties amongst them. Little was done but law with one another and trap and hunt for the first two years. The Reverend John Johns who had settled amongst them preached for them and expounded the scriptures for them on the Sabbath Day, when he was not too busily engaged in bee hunting, elk hunting and deer hunting or trapping.

In July, 1853, the troops stationed at Fort Dodge were ordered to abandon the Post and march to the St. Peter river in Minnesota to assist in building the new post. Major Woods immediately set out after the receipt of the orders with the first division of men numbering forty-five for the point designated. So wild and unknown was the country north of Fort Dodge at the time, that after passing the present state line the Major and his party lost their way. Taking for their guide the maps then published, they mistook the Watonwan, or Cottonwood river, for the St. Peter River. They were 41 days making the trip which they

calculated they would make in about three weeks. They ran out of provisions and suffered from hunger, having nothing to subsist on for some time but fish and the little game they could find. Finally they were relieved by an Indian who piloted them to Trausite De Sioux on the St. Peter from which place they were piloted to the point designated. Lieutenant Corley was afterwards dispatched with a party of men to explore the country and stake out a road from Fort Dodge to the new post before the main body of troops would leave Fort Dodge. On his return and report, the main body of the troops left for the new post. The road staked out by Lieutenant Corley has since been traveled. The troops from this post were joined by Companies C and K of the 6th United States Infantry from Fort Snelling to assist in building Fort Ridgley, Major Woods being in command of the whole.

The officers and men all left Fort Dodge with regret and were very much dissatisfied when the troops left. I quit the service with the determination of settling and making a home at Fort Dodge. It was also the intention of the officers to resign and settle here. They were all attached to Fort Dodge. They had arranged and marked out their several claims around the Fort, and it was understood that I was to remain and secure their claims with my own. But the following spring they were ordered to California. As all the world appeared to be moving to California, at that

time, this change pleased them and they changed their intentions about coming back to Fort Dodge.

After the Garrison left, I and my son lived at Fort Dodge excluded, it may be said, from the world, never having at any time more than two or three discharged soldiers with us. We lived on boiled rice, slap jacks and molasses, fish and wild fowl. James was the cook and housekeeper. We had two cows and he enjoyed himself in raising young buffalo, elk, deer, coons and cats—at one time he had four buffalo calves, three elk, one deer, three coons and seven or eight cats. Morning and evening he milked the cows and fed his pets.

We always were on our guard and well armed, James and myself had Sharps rifles and two other guns, two horseman's pistols, a Colts revolver and any number of knives, hatchets and a good supply of amunition. Hefley and others were also well armed. When the Indians came in with their squaws and children, we knew them well enough to know their intentions were not hostile, but when they came without them, we always required them to give up their arms for safe keeping before we would let them enter the house. On one occasion, I made up my mind our time had come to fight. Three came in about 2 o'clock in the day, all of whom we knew. I did not like their conduct. They were silent and appeared to be eyeing everything closely, made an attempt to approach the

rack on which our arms were placed. We ordered them back and seized the arms. They fell back and expressed surprise. After hanging about for an hour or two, twelve or thirteen more came in, all of whom with the exception of three or four were strangers, and the majority of them were painted very extravagantly, all expressed a desire to look at our arms, which we refused. After hanging about for some time, they encamped in the small grove west of Market Street and remained there until the next day when they left without saying what they wanted. That night we slept none, and for some days and nights were constantly on our guard. About two weeks after this occurrence, being satisfied they were gone from this neighborhood, I started for the Mississippi (Muscatine), leaving James, Hefley, Rensland and George Warner to keep the garrison. I was absent about three weeks, on my return at Fort Des Moines I found quite an excitement. George Warner had arrived there from Fort Dodge and asserted as a truth that there were fifty tepees of Sioux warriors six miles above Fort Dodge, that they had given notice that if Lott and son was not given up to them in six weeks they would burn the fort and murder every settler on the river from the fort down. I talked with Warner personally, and he assured me it was true and that in a few days the time would be up. He told me that he left all the others at the fort. His statements alarmed

me very much. I started and made forced marches up to the fort. As I came up the country I met families putting out, found all the settlers along the road alarmed and on the lookout. As I drew near the fort the stories were less alarming, but my anxiety became greater. When I arrived at a point a short distance east of the pole that stands on the hill just before I could have a sight of the buildings, I halted, became weak with anxiety, dreading the sight that might meet my eyes, but on cautiously peeping over the hill, I saw (contrary to my expectations) that all were standing as I left them, not a building disturbed. As I approached the buildings a dead silence reigned, no person to be seen or heard, the thought crossed my mind "they may have been killed." I found the store door locked. On looking into the window I felt relieved—everything was in its place. I called but received no answer. I went down to the bank of the river near the old theatre and halloo'd, James answered me from the head of the Island, where I found him with his canoe, dogs and gun. I told him of the stories circulated down South. He said they were not true. I inquired for the others and he said they were hunting, and looking around so I found matters. When all the folks were in a perfect fever with fear, I found from the boys that they had frightened Warner off, as he was so great a coward, that he became troublesome in giving false alarms, frequently he would imagine he



saw and heard Indians. About this time several parties from the southern counties came stealing in and peeping cautiously over the hills to see the ruins of the fort and ascertain the truth, as it was reported we were attacked by the Indians and all killed and the place burned.

So we lived surrounded by Indians and some of whom would be in with us every few days. James was here for three years and seven months without ever seeing one of the family but myself. I generally footed it down to Muscatine to see the family about every three or four months and would be absent two or three weeks. James was about eleven years old when he first came up to Fort Dodge. During my absence he kept the garrison for me without a murmur. We got along by suffering many privations and running many risks before any settlers could be induced to come up this far.

None but those who had the experience can form any idea of the hardships, privations and trials that first settlers in a frontier country (like this was), had to undergo. I can name some of the first settlers in this county and who are yet living here, whom I found suffering from want, who dared not leave their helpless families to go after the necessities of life. The dread of the Indians prevented them going out of sight of their helpless families. I have found them in most trying situations. I found one family who had raised



four logs of a cabin and was living in it under cover of bushes and sleeping in their wagon. The man had but little help, the children being small, the oldest a little girl about 12 years old; he and the wife with a yoke of cattle were trying to break up a little ground but had been for some time without anything to eat but roots. When I found them, they were gathering ginseng and living on it alone. That man and his family are still living here and are now very well off. He owns a good property, they persevered and underwent every trial. Now they are comfortably situated. Many were the trials of all the first settlers in this district of the country. All were poor and destitute of help.

## CHAPTER V

TITLE TO THE FORT; HOW I ACQUIRED IT; GROWTH  
OF EARLY FORT DODGE; THE INDIANS  
RETURN; LOTT KILLS SIDOM-I-NA-DO-TAH

When the troops abandoned Fort Dodge, the only persons left were myself and son, James B. Williams, Quarter Master Sergeant F. W. Allen, William Tilghman and wife, she being sick. Allen and Tilghman were left until the wagon train would return for them. When the train returned, Sergeant Allen and Tilghman left with them. Then my son, James, and myself and a discharged soldier, Joseph Sweet, who came down with the train, were the sole inhabitants of Fort Dodge. Sweet came authorized by some of the officers, one in particular to take care of the buildings at a salary of \$20 per month. This caused me to suspect that an effort would be made to purchase the land around the fort as well as the Fort site. Believing this, I set out immediately to buy it myself. I succeeded after great exertion after an absence of four or five weeks. Upon my return, I found Sweet was superseded by Sergeant John Hefley, who had taken charge of the Fort buildings. I gave notice of my rights and

demanded possession. He claimed that his army orders were to keep possession and he must obey them.

The situation of the land title was known to the officers of the Fort and Government alone. The facts were as follows: When the site for building the Fort was selected, the reservation was determined on as already stated, four miles above the Fort and four miles below and two miles on each side of the Des Moines river, eight miles in length and four miles wide. At that time, no one thought of the Grant made by Congress to the State of Iowa for the improvement of the Des Moines River in 1846. Originally this extended only above the Coon Forks. In 1852, the decision was made by Commissioner of the Interior that the grant should extend to the source of the river. When this decision was made the Fort was built and all completed. So some lands embraced in the reservation and particularly that land on which the Fort was built belonged to the State of Iowa under that grant. We saw at once that the reservation was interfered with, as the grant gave to the State of Iowa every odd section of land for five miles wide on each side of the Des Moines river, and when the land came to be sectionized it was found that all the Fort buildings were erected on section 19, a section which under the decision belonged to the State of Iowa. A council was held by the officers of the Fort and they joined in recommending that an arrangement be made by the fed-

eral government to purchase the land from the State of Iowa, as the improvements then made had cost over \$80,000. In reply, however, the War Department stated that no such arrangements would be made, that the intention was to abandon the Post as soon as all arrangements were made to establish a new and permanent post on the north line of the late treaty with the Sioux Indians. It was further stated that it would not pay to remove buildings if they were justified by law in so doing, that the post would be abandoned as it stood. These facts were unknown to outsiders. All looked upon it as a government reservation which would be sold by the government in the usual way after it was abandoned. Consequently there were a great number on the lookout. I suppose at the lowest estimate there were at least fifty waiting to purchase. Anticipating that the government would offer the land and buildings for sale, several parties came to examine the premises. Several combinations were formed with the intention of purchasing. While they were so engaged, I secured the property by purchase from the State of Iowa. On my return, after giving Hefley notice, I brought suit for possession and went through the formalities of the law with the view of placing Hefley in the right position with his Army employers. I obtained judgment for possession and was placed in possession by an officer of the law and com-

menced to lay out the original plat of Fort Dodge in March, 1854.

During my absence in securing the land, William R. Miller, who had purchased Granville Berkley's claim and lived nine miles above the fort, became alarmed by the threatening appearance and conduct of the Indians and fled to the fort with his family for safety. On my return taking possession, I gave him a house to live in and the land around the fort to farm, also contracted with him to keep a public house in the building known as the Wahkonsa House, which was the first public house kept in Fort Dodge.

At that time, March, 1854, the inhabitants of Fort Dodge were William R. Miller and family, John Hefley and wife, my son James and myself. About the first of April, 1854, Robert Scott and family and John Scott came in seeking refuge from the Indians. They had settled on the west side of the river about 6 miles below us, but the appearance of prairie fires, the hooting of owls and strange sounds heard by them alarmed them, and they left their claim and fled to the fort. (Robert and John disagreed as to who was most alarmed. Robert said it was the wife that was alarmed, John insisted that it was Robert and not the wife. It is a matter of dispute between them to this day, who of them was most alarmed. Certain it is when they came in, they were badly frightened).

In June following C. C. Carpenter came in. At this time the only settlers north of Brushey Creek were Sergeant Thomas White, Powell Bush and James Mahoney. Soon after, Thomas Holliday came in and settled on Elk river where he yet lives. In the latter part of June and in July, Preston Vancleave and John Vancleave came in with their families, immediately after them, Volney Knight, A. S. Scovel, George Goss and families, also George Williams, John Yost and George H. Rodgers came in. We then had in Fort Dodge, about twenty children. An effort was made to have a school. C. C. Carpenter was employed and kept the first school in Fort Dodge. \*

After the troops left the Fort, the Indians again gathered in around us, and encamped and erected their teepees on their former sites, especially along the Des Moines above and along the branches of the Lizard. Their appearance in the neighborhood kept our citizens in a constant state of alarm. The women particularly, were in constant dread of them.

About the time Miller abandoned his claim, the infamous Henry Lott and his son went up the river north of us to make a claim, which he did about 30 miles above us on what has been since known as Lott's Creek, now in Humboldt county. He took with him articles to trade with the Indians, also whiskey (three barrels) as he set to work himself into favor with the

\* C. C. Carpenter afterwards became Governor of Iowa.



Indians. We cautioned him against it, but he persevered, built a cabin and settled there. Sidom-i-na-do-tah, Chief of the Red Top Band, with his family and some relatives were encamped about a mile up the creek from Lott's Cabin, two tepees of them. The party was composed of the old Chief Sidom-i-na-do-tah, his squaw and four children, his aged mother, a very old Squaw and two orphan children she had in charge, in all numbering nine. Lott had always said that Sidom-i-na-do-tah was the leader of the party that drove him off and robbed him when he first settled at the mouth of the Boon River, and frequently said he would be revenged. Lott professed friendship with the Indian and frequently gave him liquor. Lott and his son managed to get the old Indian out on the prairie to hunt elk. There they waylaid him and shot him off his pony. In the night after murdering him, they blackened their faces and disguised themselves as Indians, attacking the Squaws and children in their teepees and murdering six of them, two only escaping, a boy about 10 years old and a little girl. The boy was severely cut in the head and left for dead but recovered. The little girl, escaped from the teepee with her mother who fled, was overtaken about 100 yards from the teepee where the mother was killed. The little girl escaped by hiding among some bushes where she remained for days until a party of Indians from the Lizard who were on a hunt discovered the fate of their

friends and took her in charge. As soon as Lott and his son committed the murder they set a fire to their cabin and fled.

## CHAPTER VI

### I ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE LOTT — THE FARCE OF THE CORONER'S INQUEST AT HOMER

From the accounts given by the little girl the Indians were at first induced to believe the murder was committed by some of the hostile Indians, and that Lott and son had been murdered also, but upon examination and pursuing their trail we found the Lotts had fled and had with them the Indian's pony and all his furs which they offered to sell to Phelamon Johnston on Boon River. This murder greatly excited the Indians. Two of them came down and made it known that the two white men must be given to them. I took with me L. Ketzman, a discharged soldier, who had returned to us, and went up to see the Indians who were congregated at the encampment of Ink-a-po-dotah, the brother of Sidom-i-na-do-tah, who lived on the east side of the Des Moines river, some nine miles north of the Fort. I there found several of their leaders all very much excited with their faces blackened and howling like a pack of wolves mourning the loss of their friends. This occurred in January, 1854. To reconcile them and show that we were willing to give up Lott if he could be overtaken, I proposed to them

that if they would give me four of their warriors to go with me who could identify the furs and pony Lott had taken with him, I would try to overtake him. They turned out four active fellows, Ti-ton-kah and his son and Cos-om-e-nah and Tineah, well armed, who accompanied me down as far as the Fort, where we arrived late in the night. Next morning, however, they refused to go any further and returned. I followed Lott myself until satisfied he had crossed the Missouri river and fled to California, where we since have heard by letters from his son that he was shot in some quarrel. After this murder was committed by Lott, the Indians became very sullen and distant, and very insolent.

When Lott committed the murder of the Indians, it caused great confusion amongst the Homerites. They greatly feared the Indians would retaliate. For a time, they put aside the Code and stopped law debates. However, it was some time before the body of Sidom-i-na-do-tah, the murdered Indian, was found. Finally the Indians found it and reported, then some exciting scenes occurred. The constituted authorities of the County (as they styled themselves) down at Homer, took up the case, and after fully arguing it, aided by a councilor who was since admitted to the bar, they decided that the case was within their jurisdiction. The authorities embodied at Homer (or rather around Homer) decided that a coroner's in-

quest should be held over the remains of the murdered Indian. A jury was summoned and up they went to Ink-a-pa-do-tah's encampment which was near where William R. Miller formerly lived, about 10 miles north of Fort Dodge. Mr. B—— was the lawyer and interpreter for the party, as he claimed to understand the Sioux language. The bones of Si-dom-i-na-do-tah were produced and laid before the jury. The Indians gathered around at a loss to know what was to be done. No doubt they expected that Lott and son were taken and a grand pow-wow was to be held before the Lotts were delivered over to them. The jury looked grave, eyed the red men with great curiosity. After a full examination of the bones and explanations by their attorney, they proceeded to take testimony. Mr. Miller was requested to act as Master of Ceremonies, as he was best acquainted with the Indians and had previously heard all their story. Then one after another of the Indians was called up. To all questions put to the Indians, generally but one answer was given, "Ho wa see cha nepo Dacotah ho Sidom-i-na-do-tah nepo." Which interpreted is "Yes white man killed Dakotah. Sidom-i-na-do-tah killed." Great difficulty arose among the jurors and the attorney and Miller disagreed as to the interpretation. Some of the jury were of the opinion that the Indians meant to say, some Indian whom they called Waseecha Nepo had killed him. They had heard Indian names

in Missouri that sounded very much like that. Others contended otherwise. Mr. B—— gave his interpretation. Mr. Miller pronounced it wrong and gave his. He was best posted. The jury requested Miller to get the Indians to say which was right, the only answer they could get was "Ho." Mr. B—— quoted Dick's Works, and insisted that the word nepo was derived from the Greek; that he had studied the Sioux language and traced it back to the root. He commenced to parse the words and compare them. He stated that the word nepo was from a Greek word nep and triumphantly exclaimed "Nep-Nepo-Nepos." This silenced Miller, and he left swearing it was all a damned imposition and he would leave them. Some of the jury left with him. Mr. B—— was left to close the affair, and he succeeded in getting the Indians to let him take the head of Si-dom-i-na-do-tah with him. It was said that he promised to bury it. However, he took it to Homer and hung it up at the corner of Mr. B's—— house for a show. There it hung for nearly a year. No doubt, many yet residing here as well as myself, saw it hanging there. Miller, after he found the use they had made of the head, was very fearful that the Indians would find it out, and give trouble. I never learned that any report of the jury was made.



## CHAPTER VII

HOMER, THE FIRST COUNTY SEAT; I LAY OUT THE TOWN OF FORT DODGE; THE HOMERITES FIGHT FORT DODGE; NEW CASTLE CHANGED TO WEBSTER CITY; THE LAND OFFICE AND LAND SPECULATORS; MORE TOWNS; THE FIGHT BETWEEN HOMER AND FORT DODGE FOR THE COUNTY SEAT.

THE KNOW NOTHING MOVEMENT IN FORT DODGE.

In the fall of 1854, the Indians began to fall back and the frequent alarms in some measure subsided. Their place was filled up by a host of hungry land hunters, surrounding the first settlers and coveting their claims. For the purpose of defending and mutual protection against all such, the settlers as has been customary in all new frontier settlements, formed themselves into what was called a Claim Club, the object of which was to protect each other against the attacks of the unprincipled set of pirates who began to come into the country and jump the claims of those who had made claims and returned to bring out their families.

Homer, the first county seat of Webster county, was surveyed and laid out in the fall of 1853, situated 19 miles south of Fort Dodge near the Boon River.

The first Post Office established in the county was at Homer, and Granville Berkley appointed Postmaster (he kept the mail matter in a small box under his bed). Previous to the establishment of that office and after the troops left the Fort, for some time the nearest Post Office was at Boonsboro.

March 27, 1854, after securing the site of Fort Dodge, I proceeded to survey and lay out the town of Fort Dodge. The Homer folks and those in Boon Forks then commenced a warfare on Fort Dodge for the reason I suppose they considered it a rival town. They used every means in their power to prevent all emigrants from coming up the Des Moines, abused the country, and raised the story that there was no title for the Fort Dodge property, and induced many to believe that the troops were coming back to drive me away. They sent all of them up the Boon River, telling them the best land was there. When they failed to get them to stop with them, I left them alone. Their course just suited me. It had the effect from such tales told, together with their Indian stories to stop and keep away from this neighborhood all the timid and least-to-be-desired emigrants, and we got the better class. As to settling up Boon River east of us, it was just what we desired as our great object was to open and people the route from Dubuque to Sargents Bluffs, which would, in our opinion, eventually be the great route to the Pacific.

In 1853, several good settlers had entered land on Boon River east of us. (At that time all lands in the county of Webster were open for entry at the Land Office at Fort Des Moines). Amongst these were Walter C. Wilson and Sumner Wilson, who laid out the town of New Castle in May, 1854. This town is situated about 20 miles east of Fort Dodge on the road to Dubuque. The Messrs. Wilson entered into the views we had in relation to future improvements, and formed an alliance with us at Fort Dodge, and resolved to let the Homerites alone in their glory.

In July, 1855, the town of New Castle was enlarged by additions and the name changed to Webster City. We resolved between us to make it a county town when the proper time would arrive to move for the division of Webster County and the restoration of the two original counties to their former position.

The session of congress, 1854-1855, established two new land districts embracing the northern portion of Iowa and established the land office for the northwestern district at Fort Dodge. This, at once, brought Fort Dodge into general notice as an important point. For some time previous to the opening of the land office, crowds of speculators, and as they were called Land Sharks, came in and literally took the town by storm. The United States Land Office was opened on the 5th day of November, 1855, and General V. P. Van Antwerp was appointed Receiver

and William H. Merritt registrar. The establishment of the land office brought about such desire for speculation in lands every other pursuit in a great measure was abandoned. Every person appeared to be playing land agent, selling land warrants and entering land on time at 40 per cent appeared to be a general business. Land agents from all the States appeared to be present. The rush and contention was so great that the officers were obliged to adopt the system of drawing for chances to enter. This system brought out a new swarm of land operators. Crowds entered the list of agents who had neither warrants nor money to enter land with but rushed in, claimed their right to draw for a chance and if fortunate in drawing a good number would sell their chance to hungry agents for ten or twenty dollars. A great many fast young men gathered around the land office who appeared to have the command of plenty of money. It was no uncommon sight to see them in groups, pitching twenty dollar gold pieces. For two years after the land office opened every person appeared to be engaged in speculating in land, during which time very little was done in the way of building or improving of farms or town property.

The Land Office was opened for the sale of public lands in the Commissary building on the corner of Second and Williams Streets on the 5th day of November, 1855. General Van Antwerp, Receiver, and

William H. Merritt, Registrar. The first lot sold in Fort Dodge was on the receipt of the news that the Land Office was located in our town. Hoyt Sherman and Edward W. Lucas came up from Fort Des Moines and informed me and purchased lots. Sherman purchased Lot 3, block 9, and Lucas 1 and 2 in block 10. The first house built in the town plat was built by Messr. Gilmore and Chandler on Lot 3, block 8. (The house Mr. Duncombe now lives in). They put it up in the fall of 1855. John Garaghty commenced building A. Groat's house on Lot 4, block 8, but the season being wet he gave it up and afterwards built a brick house on the same site. The second building put up was by Mr. Corbin on Lot 3, block 8; the third was put up by E. G. Morgan and W. Biers; the brick on Lot 6, block 11. The fourth was put up by C. Hazard Vincent on Lot 5, block 11; the fifth a small dwelling by Green and Dawley on Lot 9, block 9; sixth a store house by Green and Dawley on Lot 5, block 9.

In 1855, the town of Paris on the south side of the Boon River on the Des Moines road, was laid out. (This town was laid out in June, 1855, and great efforts made to bring it into notice).

In 1854, I succeeded in getting a Post Office at Fort Dodge, but had to carry the mail at my own expense from Homer. In 1855, I succeeded in having mail service extended to Fort Dodge.

In the fall of 1855, Homerites began to move in the matter of building a Court House at Homer, and went so far as to enter into treaties with certain parties to build it and had the plan all arranged. This was discovered by their bringing on brickmakers from Illinois to make brick and by one of the parties exhibiting the plan of the proposed Court House to a gentleman in the cars between Chicago and Rock Island, urging him to settle in Homer. The gentleman came on to Fort Dodge, and in the conversation stated the facts.

We at Fort Dodge immediately got up petitions praying for an order for an election to remove the county seat from Homer to Fort Dodge. Then a very spirited canvas was made of the county. We with petitions for the removal and the south part of the county with remonstrances against it. The county judge Meservey with others was violently opposed to the removal, and when we came down with our petitions, we found a great crowd in attendance. We managed to get the assurance from the Judge that he would decide in favor of the party who had the greatest number of signatures. At the time he gave the decision, he was very confident the Homerites would beat us. But to his astonishment, when we produced all our petitions we out-counted their number by eleven. It was too late for the judge to withdraw, so, rising from his chair, he said he would grant the order,



but he swore he would do all he could to defeat us. The active persons in urging the order for the election were from Fort Dodge. Jno. F. Duncombe, H. Beecher, Sewil Gower, L. L. Pease and William Williams; from Webster City, Walter C. Wilson, the Brewers and two or three others. After our Webster City friends had left for home, and the Homerites had resorted to whiskey pretty freely, twenty or more of their bullies attacked us and were for mobbing us. They abused us very much and, I suppose, all that saved us was taking a pretty stubborn and silent stand, which caused them to believe we were armed. It is but just to say that Jno. F. Duncombe, H. Beecher and myself were left to face them with Daniel E. Stine, who happened to be there. Pease put out, so did Gower, one to the stable for the horses and the other to hunt a Justice of the Peace, but failed to find one or return until we were starting for home after the ruffians had pretty much backed out. Afterwards some of the bullies professed to be very much ashamed of their conduct.

In April, 1856, after a very exciting canvas, the election was held and the removal of the county seat to Fort Dodge carried by a large majority.

In June, 1856, the town of Buchannon was laid out, situated about 15 miles south of Fort Dodge on the west side of the Des Moines.

In August, 1856, the town of West Dayton was laid out by B. F. Allison on the west side of the Des Moines River about 20 miles south of Fort Dodge.

In July, 1856, the town of Border Plains was laid out by I. Ingles and others. It is situated about ten miles south of Fort Dodge on the east side of Des Moines river between the river and the road from Fort Dodge to Fort Des Moines.

After the removal of the County Seat from Homer the inhabitants of the south part of the county became reconciled and quieted down as some of the agitators left. I will here state that in the fall of 1854, after I had laid out Fort Dodge and several inhabitants moved in, a certain emissary from Dubuque, named Thomas, an Englishman, came to Fort Dodge, accompanied by a certain Doctor Dyer of Hardin City. These men and Granville Berkley of Homer, after establishing a Know Nothing Lodge at Homer, succeeded in starting one at Fort Dodge with the assistance of George H. Rodgers and Cordes Hardman. They drew into their nets several good meaning men here and made a bold attempt to take possession of the place and dictate who should be permitted to live in our town. This combination I had to meet.

Rodgers lived in and occupied a house and property on Williams Street, which I gave him notice to leave. He bade me defiance and set up the plea of title. At this time his efforts were to band together all the

Know Nothings then belonging to their lodge including their wives and to divide and distract the whole community. Soon all began to understand Rodgers' object and left the Know Nothings, exposing his conduct, and he and Hardman were left alone. I had to have recourse to the law to get Rodgers out of town, having to go to the lower part of the county to bring suit. I had to contend against a numerous Lodge of Know Nothings as jurymen and Berkley as his lawyer baffled me with continuances, changes of venue, etc., for several weeks. I finally obtained judgment for possession and an officer was sent out to remove Rodgers. D. W. Prindle and Mr. Bell acted as constables. Rodgers to prevent me from taking part in removing him as a last resort, went to Homer and had me bound over to Court under \$500 bail. He swore he was afraid of his life, etc. This, however, did not stop the constables in performance of their duty. When they went to put him out and give possession, they found the house fastened up, every door barricaded, and all the inmates armed with guns and refusing to surrender. The constables, assisted by my son, James, broke open the door and they were fired upon—the boldest resistance coming from Rodgers' wife. Possession was taken and he was expelled from the town to the great satisfaction of all the inhabitants. Hardman soon after, also left the town. About this time a blacksmith shop, coal house, etc., were

burned down. This expulsion to a great extent put an end to the operations of the Know Nothings in Fort Dodge. Their general rallying place afterwards was at Homer.

In 1857, the town of Belleville was laid out by Isaac and Jacob Bell. This town is situated about 22 miles south of Fort Dodge on the west bank of the Des Moines river, a small place.

At the session of the legislature 1856-57, Webster County was divided by striking of the territory formerly embraced in Risley County and a new county erected which was named Hamilton County, and Webster City was made the county seat. This new county embraced the town of Homer, the county line running close to Homer and taking it in. This relieved the citizens of the northern part of Webster County from the restless Homerites, who have since turned their attention to Webster City, their opposition having since been directed there.

## CHAPTER VIII

1856-1860, YEARS OF PROGRESS—RAILROADS,  
CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, HOTELS, THE COURT HOUSE,  
THE FIRST BUSINESS MEN, LAWYERS, DOCTORS,  
STOREKEEPERS, ARTISANS

At the same time the legislature partially restored Humboldt County with the exception of township number ninety, which still belongs to Webster. This division leaves Webster County with all the territory originally belonging to Yell County with the one township—number ninety—off what is called Humboldt County, making Webster 24 miles from east to west and 30 miles from north to south. At an early time, Humboldt County was abolished—the two southern townships added to Webster County and the northern townships and Bancroft County were added to Kossuth County. Afterwards, Humboldt was restored except township number 90, which still is left to Webster County.

In August, 1856, the first court was held in Fort Dodge, Hon. C. I. McFarland presiding. Court was held in the public school house.

In 1856, the Dubuque and Pacific Railroad was located, and Fort Dodge was made a point. Notwith-

standing a desperate effort was made by a band of speculators who made every effort in their power to divert it from Fort Dodge to section number 6, township number 90, north of Fort Dodge. This band was headed by William H. Merritt, Reg. of the Land Office, William Wilson, Jr., Robert Wilson and others.

In 1856, considerable extension of the town plat of Fort Dodge was made during the years of 1855 and 1856. The population of Webster County increased very rapidly, all in 1857. In those years the townships of Webster, Hardin, Dayton, Yell, Sumner, Otho, Wahkonsa and Douglas were organized. In 1858, the township of Jackson was added, making in all, including the original township Washington, ten organized townships in the county in 1858.

During the years of 1858 and 1859 very few emigrants came into this section of the country owing to the great revulsion in the monetary affairs of the country. Emigrants almost entirely ceased to come in. Another cause operated to prevent settlements to a great extent, not only in Webster County, but in the Des Moines Valley generally. That was the unsettled state of the title to the lands claimed by the Des Moines River grant, which included every odd section of land five miles on each side of the Des Moines river from the mouth of the river to its source. That question of title prevented settlers from improving a large portion of the best lands in Webster County.



The following post offices have been established in Webster County up to January 1, 1861: Fort Dodge, Border Plains, West Dayton, Otho, Hesperian, Buchannan and Belleville.

The first store in Fort Dodge was established by Williams and Lemp and kept by James B. Williams in the house formerly the Hospital on Lot 3, block 5.

The first physician ..... Doctor S. B. Olney

The first lawyer ..... Jno. F. Duncombe

The first land agents .... Gilmore & Chandler

The first blacksmith ..... Cordi Hardman

The first wagonmaker .... Gilbert Marshall

The first tailor ..... James W. Thomas

The first carpenter ..... J. D. Burkeholder

The first cabinet maker ..... Henry Dimler

First house painter ..... Jacob Nagle

The first workers in tin and copper,

..... Klenedob & Prussia

First shoemaker ..... Michael Crowley

The first barber ..... C. Arnold

First bricklayers and masons,

..... W. G. Mitchell & J. Weeks

The first plasterers,

..... Samuel Bixler and Nicholas Jacobs

First livery establishment ..... M. S. Woods

First newspaper—Fort Dodge Sentinel,

..... A. S. White

First postmaster ..... William Williams  
 First druggist ..... G. L. and C. C. Bissell

In 1856, the Dubuque and Pacific Railroads were located and Fort Dodge made a point. The Fort Dodge company donating to the railroad liberally, grounds for a depot and all other purposes required by them.

In 1857, the Catholic Church was built, a fine brick building, erected on Lots 2 and 3, block 59. In 1856, the Presbyterian Church, a neat brick church, was built on lot No. 3 in Block 25. In 1858 the Methodist Episcopal Church was built, a large fine frame structure, erected on Lot 5 in Block 25. The Episcopal Church was commenced in 1859, a neat church erected on Lot 2 in block 54. At present the Presbyterian congregation has no pastor, Rev. J. Marsh is pastor of the Catholic Church, Rev. J. Thompson of the Methodist, and Rev. Goodale of the Episcopal. In 1857, an excellent brick school was built on Lot 4, block 24. In 1856, William R. Miller sold his lease of the house and property attached to it where he opened a public house, to William Hodges, who renewed the lease and improved the house by adding another story, and gave it the name of the Wahkonsa House (at my suggestion). The name of Wahkonsa is the name of a young Sioux Chief who was a great favorite with us,

a very intelligent young Indian. The township when organized was also called after him. \*

In the spring of 1857, William Hodges, sold his lease to O. K. Johnston, who kept the house for some time; he sold out to Wright. After he quit, E. H. Albee took a lease of the house; he keeps it at this time. He changed the name of the house to that of the "Bernhart House."

In 1857, A. S. White and Charles White built a hotel of brick on Lot 3, block 2, on Williams Street, which they named "The St. Charles Hotel." After various changes of landlords and bad management the house ran down. The building is now occupied by the County Officers.

In April, 1858, the County Judge, Pease, submitted to the citizens of the county the proposition to build a Courthouse. At an election held for the purpose in April, 1858, it was decided by a majority of 199 that a courthouse should be built. In August, 1858, the contract for building the courthouse was given to H. D. Merritt and Israel Jenkins at \$39,450. After commencing the work, they sub-contracted with Sweeny and Tierney, who after doing considerable work gave it up again to Merritt and Jenkins. In June, 1860, they sold out the contract to Thomas Snell of Illinois, and Abner Taylor of Fort Dodge, who have progressed

\* The name signified "one who will be heard from. One that will go ahead."

with the work rapidly, and will have the building completed by the 1st of January, 1861. A. V. Lambert of Fort Dodge is the architect and Messrs. Manson and Douglass the master workmen and superintendents in carrying on the work. This court house is erected on the corner of Sixth and Market Streets\*. The lots on which it is erected together with two opposite, were given as a donation to the county, with the provision that the county shall fence up and plant trees and otherwise beautify the two lots opposite those on which the court house is erected for a public walk, etc. This court house will be an ornament, not only to Webster County, but to the State. It is decidedly the most splendid building of the kind in the State. It is built of finely cut stone and ornamented. The stone was taken from the quarries in the vicinity of Fort Dodge.

At this time, December 28, 1860, the population of Fort Dodge is about one thousand, including Snell & Butterworth Addition, the addition of Duncombe and Morrison and William H. Plumb addition.

The first Court was held at Fort Dodge in August, 1856. The Honorable C. J. McFarland presided. The judicial district being changed Honorable J. Thompson of Eldora, presided for a time. In 1858, Honorable John Porter was elected District Judge, and

\* Same as present location of Court House (1950), 7th and Central Ave.

William P. Hepburn, District Attorney, who are now in office. At this time there are ten attorneys here as follows:

John Garaghty

W. N. Meservey

Jno. F. Duncombe

Geo. W. Bassett

Woolsey Wells

Jno. Barclay

C. B. Richards

Jas. D. Strow

Theo. Hawley

Jno. M. Stockdale

Two Justices of the Peace; J. D. Strow and H. Beecher.

Five stores: (all variety stores)

S. B. Ayres Company

Sherman Company

Abner Taylor

M. M. Haire

Albert Wisner

Two stove and tin establishments:

Klenedob and Prussia and A. J. Humphries.

Three Groceries:

C. Rank, Chas. Dimler and P. Cahill.

One drug store—Jas. Swain.

Two liquor establishments—W. Hollahan, C. Arnold.

One shoe store—M. Crosby.

Three shoemakers—Wm. Kellner, M. Noonan and John Miller.

One saddler—P. R. Baldwin.

Tailors—J. H. Thomas, Thos. Howard, D. Fessler.

One clothing store—D. Fessler.

Twelve carpenters:

A. V. Lambert  
J. D. Burkholder  
Jona Hutchison  
Gilbert Roscoe  
J. L. Chaney  
H. H. Hulshiser

Israel Jenkins  
Gordon Patterson  
Henry Patterson  
———Rodkey  
H. Cramer  
A. Booth

Three bricklayers: W. G. Mitchell, J. Weeks, A. Jacobs.

Three Plasterers: J. Weeks, N. Jacobs, L. Chase.

Two stone masons: John O'Laughlin, A. Jacobs.

Three house painters: Jno. Nagle, Henry Warnick, J. W. White.

Two blacksmiths: W. R. W. Hancock, John Parsons.

One wagon maker: D. L. Hancock.

Two cabinet makers: Henry Dimler, C. Laufersweiler.

Three brokers and land agents: McBane & Marlett, C. A. Sherman and Samuel Rees Company.

One hotel: "Bernhart House" kept by E. H. Albee.

Three surveyors: H. D. Merritt, A. Morrison, John Jenkins.

One millinery establishment: Mrs. Crosby.

One baker: C. Rank.

One watchmaker: H. Warnick.

One weekly newspaper: "Fort Dodge Republican" published by Messrs. Ingersoll and Logan.



One toy and variety store: John Schaffner.

Two insurance agencies: The Peoria Marine & Fire Insurance Company, C. A. Sherman, agent; The Aetna Fire Ins. Company of Hartford, Connecticut, S. B. Ayres, agent.

Ashler Lodge No. 111 of A. F. & A. Masons.

Lodge No. 85 of I. O. O. Fellows.

Lodge of Good Templers.

Land office: Thomas Sargent, Receiver; John M. Stockdale, Register.

Land Agents:

Benj. A. Grayson

C. A. Sherman

H. D. Merritt

Saml. Reese

H. Beecher

———Stratton

Post Office: William Williams, Postmaster; James B. Williams, Deputy.

One steam saw mill: S. Tod.

One nursery: Wm. H. Plumb.

One brick yard: I. Jenkins.

## CHAPTER IX

THE SIOUX INDIANS—THE RED TOP BAND; THEIR HISTORY AND THEIR LEADERS—THE ATTACK ON THE SETTLERS ON THE BOYER; PROMPT PURSUIT AND A SPEEDY RECOVERY OF THE WHITE CAPTIVES

The Indians who inhabited this district were Sioux Indians, originally known as the Red Top band. Made up of fractional bands of the Sisitons, among whom were the Five Lodges numbering 500, their acknowledged chief was Red Thunder. The germ of this band (Five Lodges) was a family of murderers who wandered away from the Sisitons many years ago, having murdered an aged chief. They formed a little Navou of their own where rogues from all the other bands found refuge. They now number over 150 Lodges. We frequently found the Little Rock Band mixed up with them, living with them and hunting with them along our streams. Ish-ta-ha-ba or Sleepy Eyes is the Chief of the Little Rock Band, and is connected by marriage to the leader of the Five Lodge Band. We have frequently also found the Yankton Indians, and Smutty Bear Indians with them. The principal chiefs and leaders of the Red Top or Five Lodge band since

we came to this country have been Sidom-i-na-do-tah, Ink-a-pa-do-tah, Ti-ton-ka (or Big Buffalo) Um-pa-sho-tah (Smoky Day,) Wah-kon-sa and Cos-ne-o-ni. When we first began to hunt these Indians and chastise them for outrages committed, there was a very stout Negro with them who was always reported as the most insolent and daring. Every effort was made to catch him, but he always managed to keep out of the way when any outrage was committed. We could hear of him, but we could not catch him.

Before the Sacs and Fox and Pottawattamie Indians left the State this band of Sioux increased their numbers greatly by gathering in renegades and allies from other bands of Sioux to aid them in fighting and pillaging their common enemy. The Pottawattamies inhabited the southwestern part of the state. The Sac and Foxes the southern and eastern part. Before we came to establish the Fort, the Pottawattamies and Sioux had some desperate battles on the Lizard River and about Twin Lakes and on the Coon River. The Sioux would make expeditions and invade the territory of the Pottawattamies and, in turn, they would attack the Sioux. The two tribes fought a desperate battle near McLaughlin's Grove on the South Lizard. This was the last fight between them. In this battle the Sioux were victorious. Soon after the Pottawattamies left the state. The Sioux kept up a continual war also with the Sac and Fox Indians and in them

they had a more powerful and warlike enemy to contend with.

The Sac and Fox towns nearest the neutral ground were located as follows: Hard Fish's band was located on Camp Creek a short distance above Mitchell's Point in Polk County. There was a large town about eight miles east of Oskaloosa on the Skunk river where Mahaskoo's \* Band resided. Powasheik's band of warriors had their village on the Iowa River and resided there up to the treaty of 1842.\*\* Tama's band had their village in Tama County. These bands whose location was nearest to the Sioux were continually warring with them up to the time they were removed from the state.

The Winnebagoes frequently joined the Sacs and Foxes in their bloody warfare with the Sioux, frequently pursuing them into their own country. A severe battle was fought at Mud Lake, a short distance southeast of Webster City. There a Sac chief, Big Bear, was killed. Along the head waters of the Cedar and Iowa rivers, also on Skunk, Boon and Des Moines rivers many battles were fought.

A desperate battle was fought between the Sac and Fox and the Sioux, near the forks of the Des Moines near where Dakota City is located. On another occasion they pursued the Sioux to a point on the east

\* Mahaska county was named after him.

\*\* Poweshiek county was named after this chief.

branch of the Des Moines above Algona, where they fought and defeated the Sioux. There a Winnebago Chief figured as leader of the Sac, Fox and Winnebagoes combined, named Sa-gi-nac.

The Sioux are a warlike restless people who have ever been for centuries past warring with and plundering all the tribes of Indians within their reach. From their own and the traditions of the Chippewas, they have been warring for two or three hundred years or more. They were both very numerous and powerful and from all accounts, streams of blood have been spilled and it is hard telling which tribe has lost the most.

In country, the Sioux are unquestionably the greatest losers, as they have within the past century been pressed back by the Chippewas from the eastern shores of Lake Superior to the western banks of the Mississippi. This brought them in contact with the Winnebagoes, Sac, Fox and Pottawattamies. It is ascertained from their own accounts as well as the accounts given by different authors that a different race of people once occupied the country now embraced in Minnesota and Northern Iowa. These Indians were exterminated or forced westward by the Sioux who are now scattered in bands from the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains.

About 40 years before the establishment of Fort Dodge, as near as we were able to ascertain from them

and other Sioux, the renegades before spoken of fled to this section of the country, and formed their band under the Chief Red Thunder. The Sioux are very active and treacherous Indians. When they profess the greatest friendship you generally have the most to fear from them. They are of the Dakotah race. The name of Sioux was given to them by the early French explorers who first settled on the upper Mississippi. Those who were found in this region of the country did not like to be called Sioux. Call them Sioux and they were sure to correct you and say they were Dakotahs.

The Chippewas, Sacs and Foxes, Pottawattamies, Winnebagoes, Iowas and Omahas are of a different race of stock. They all belong to the Algonquin family and differ very much from the Sioux in physiognomy as well as in their manners and customs. The Sioux as well as all the plains Indians are, it is supposed, descendants of the Tartars.

We were visited in Fort Dodge in the fall of 1852 by a party of gentlemen from St. Louis, who came up to visit the officers with the view of hunting buffalo. Amongst the number were two officers of the French Army—Colonel Dupree and Captain Carree, who were on a visit to the United States. They volunteered to accompany a detachment sent out to capture a band of Sioux who had attacked some settlers on the Boyer River. They expressed a great desire to see some



of the American Indians. They accompanied the expedition and overtaking the Indians captured them, the first exclamation of the French officers was "they be Tartar." "Same people how they get here;" their physiognomy, their color, their manner of fighting, their weapons, everything about them induced those French officers (who were conversant with the Tartars) to insist upon it that they were the same people they had served against in the far east.

In the fall of 1851 the Indians made an attack on the settlers on the Boyer River about 60 miles southwest of the Fort. A little colony of five or six families from New England had settled on the Boyer River and were engaged in improving their claims. The Indians after watching them for some time, took advantage of the four families who lived furthest up the river. When they had all (but the upper family) gone some miles down the stream to help a neighbor raise a house, the Indians attacked the lower house of the four, broke everything open and carried it off, or destroyed all their property. Passing up the stream from house to house, the houses being half a mile to a mile apart, they robbed all as they went. When they reached the upper house they captured the young couple who occupied it and took them along as prisoners. On the return of those who were absent they found everything they had, had been carried off or burned, even the clothing of their youngest children

as well as their horses, cattle, etc. The men set out on the trail of the Indians. In pursuit of them they found the party consisted of thirty or forty who had from the signs, been lying for some time about half a mile from one of the houses, no doubt watching the settlers' movements. The settlers followed the Indians' trail about fifty miles and then came to the Fort to report. They were satisfied that the Indians had the young man and young woman with them. They had found their tracks where the Indians crossed sloughs and damp places. Three men came to the Fort about dark on a Saturday evening. Their names were Durham, Butler and Reed. From their statements it was evident the Indians had gone in the direction of Spirit Lake or Lizard Lake. On Sunday morning at 8:00 o'clock a detachment was under way in pursuit of them, consisting of thirty men and six volunteers. The volunteers were the two French officers, Colonel Dupree and Captain Carree and two other gentlemen from St. Louis, who were on a visit, Reed and Butler from Boyer River, all under the command of Major Armistead.

Our march was rapid, and on a forced march up the North Lizard with the hope of heading the Indians a few miles north of Lizard Lake we overtook Umpa-sho-tah with traps and furs. The squaws as well as the men were all armed with guns. We scoured the whole country examining every Indian encamp-

ment on the Lizard and Des Moines. Finally we found the trail of the marauding Indians and discovered they had gone in the direction of Chain Lakes.

In pursuing the trail we found great difficulty as the streams and ground were frozen over being near the close of the month of November. It was very cold weather and no snow. As is their custom in fleeing or when they wish to conceal the direction they have traveled, they travel by keeping generally on the high grounds. Frequently when they have travelled for some distance and made a fair trail, they make for a high gravelly point from which they will scatter in every direction, making a dozen trails in as many different directions which all come together again at some point agreed upon. This robbing party carried out this trick frequently, but it was a trick we understood and we succeeded without much difficulty in tracing them, until we reached a point between the Des Moines river and Spirit Lake about four miles west of the Des Moines nearly opposite to Granger Point. There they appeared to have separated. The greater number appeared to take an eastern course across the Des Moines. At this point our provisions and horse feed ran out, having then been out ten days.

Scouring the country and examining Indian encampments and learning from Umpa-sho-tah that there was quite an encampment a few miles down the Des Moines, the detachment made a rapid march to it,

taking the Indians by surprise. There we found Ink-a-pa-do-tah and Chas-ka-nah with quite an encampment snugly fixed in winter quarters and very much alarmed. All professed innocence. We were not able to find any of the property that Reed and Butler could identify so we took three of their leading men, Ink-a-pa-do-tah, Umpa-sho-tah and Chas-ka-nah, prisoner and our provisions being out, we concluded to return and hold these three leaders as prisoners until the young man and young woman together with the horses and property would be returned. This determination being made known to the Indians they became much alarmed and they promised to hunt up and deliver up the bad Indians as they called them. Adopting this policy the detachment returned with the hostages.

This course had the desired effect, for about ten days later the young man and woman with the horses and a part of the property were brought in and restored. The Indians who brought them in professed to have recovered them after great exertions. They said they had caught the bad Indians far out on the prairie, but they took good care not to deliver up any Indians who could be charged with the robbery. No doubt, the very party we seized upon or at least a part of them had a hand in the robbery.

This treatment of them and the determined hunting up of the depredators on this occasion, together

with the threat that all or any of them would be held accountable for any depredation committed, had the effect of intimidating them very much. Great pains were taken before releasing the hostages, to exhibit the force of the garrison to them, the number of arms and equipments we had to use against them in case they should commit any further outrages. At the same time, we gave them to know they should be well treated if they behaved themselves well.

After this occurrence, a scout was pretty generally kept out watching their movements and their location as they were generally changing and roving about from place to place, following up the buffalo and elk.

## CHAPTER X

THE TROOPS LEAVE IN 1853 AND THE INDIANS RETURN; EARLY TROUBLE WITH INK-A-PA-DO-TAH; I MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR RAISING MEN TO REPEL ATTACKS

In the early part of the summer of 1852, it was found that the Indians had generally disappeared, their encampments were deserted with the exception of a few squaws, and children and some old men. It was suspected that they had put out on some robbing excursion. Great vigilance was used by the officers in scouring the country to see where they had gone. It was ascertained finally that they had gone west. The supposition then was that they had gone to wage a war against some of the tribes west of the Missouri. They did not return until late in the fall. After their return, upon visiting their encampments, it was found that they had a number of mules with white men's brands on them. Also all kinds of mechanical tools, hatchets, saws, augurs, planes, chisels, and tools of all kinds which they did not know the use of. Upon inquiring where they got the mules and various articles, they pointed westward and said they traded for them



with the white man far west, said they "swap pony for them." We had no doubt about them being out on the plains on the route of the Californians, plundering and stealing from the emigrants, but could not establish the fact. During the balance of the time the troops remained at Fort Dodge the Indians kept off some distance, and did not openly rob any one that we heard of. They frequently came in small parties to trade, behaving very quietly, appearing very submissive, particularly so after they were informed that the Government had purchased all the land between the Des Moines and Missouri Rivers.

In the fall of 1853 the troops left the Fort, and the Indians began to close in upon us and resume their old position, encamping around us on their former camp and hunting grounds, asserting that there was no game up north. About sixty or seventy of them came down and encamped on the east side of the river below us on section 32. They annoyed us very much for a time. To get clear of them the boys told them that the Sacs and Fox Indians were a few miles below them. On being told this, they pulled up stakes and fled up the river to the main body.

Late in the fall of 1853, a party under Ink-a-pa-dotah went over to the Cedar River and took prisoner an old gentleman by the name of James Chambers of Linn County, and a Mr. Madden of Muscatine who ventured up the head waters of the Cedar River to hunt.

Mr. Chambers, being a very early settler and well acquainted with the Indian character, induced the Indians to believe that he and Madden had gone up to see them and trade with them, telling them that they had a wagon some miles from there loaded with flour, bacon and whiskey, which they would bring up to them, if they would let them go back for them. The story took the fancy of the Indians and they consented to let Chambers and Madden go, but were unwilling to let them take their horses with them. Chambers satisfied them that they must have the horses to bring up the wagon. Then they consented to let them take the horses along, provided four Indians armed should accompany them. For the purpose of throwing the Indians off their guard, Chambers took off the saddle, blankets and other matters, a hatchet, etc., and handed them to the Indians to keep till they would return. They mounted their horses bare-back and started professedly for the wagon, guarded by four Indians. They talked to and amused the Indians, hoping to put them off their guard, but failed in doing so until they had traveled about six miles. On approaching a grove they pointed out about where the wagon and the balance of their party was, and told the Indians they had better stay back a short distance until they would go forward and tell their friends how matters stood, professing to fear their friends would fire on the Indians. The Indians agreed to the arrangement. As soon as

Chambers and Madden reached between one and two hundred yards from them, they put the whip to their horses and fled. Having good horses, the Indians were unable to reach them. In this way, they escaped and saved their horses.

After this affair, I was called on to attend to these Indians, being appointed by Governor Hempsted, as executive officer to keep them in order on these frontiers, even if necessary, to raise men to chastise them. I called on several of the leading Sioux and made known to them my authority. They promised to be orderly and in the future to prevent their young men from behaving bad. Putting very little faith in their promises, we kept strict watch on their movement. Being but three or four of us at the Fort, we had to be at all times on the lookout for them. We kept a good supply of arms and ammunition on hand in case we would be attacked by them. Frequently, reports circulated in the counties south of us, represented us as all killed and the Fort burned.

Nothing of a very exciting character took place, however, until January, 1854, when Henry Lott and his son murdered Sidom-i-na-dotah and his party on Lott's Creek. I have already given you an account of that occurrence. The Indians were very much excited and nothing, I believe, kept them from retaliating upon the settlers but the efforts made to apprehend Lott, and the promises made by the officers at

Fort Ridgley that he would be taken if possible. The Indians indulged in the hope that he would be taken and given to them. While they were waiting for his apprehension, the Sioux, in connection with the Minnesota Indians, took the war path against the Omaha Indians. Immediately after their return from that expedition, they made a descent upon some Sac and Fox Indians who were with a party of Winnebagoes at Clear Lake and alarmed all the settlers on the Iowa and Cedar rivers, and caused many of them to abandon their claims and leave the state.

On hearing of this affair, I set out for the Iowa River where I found that the Cosomeny band with about seventy young warriors was the cause of all the alarm. This band had killed and scalped one of the young Sac Indians. Finding the whites were alarmed they then fled in the direction of Minnesota. After this affair, Governor Grimes renewed the appointment I had held under Governor Hempsted and I made arrangements for raising men to repel any attacks they might make.

In the fall of 1855, a party of Indians attacked and robbed a man residing near Lizard Lake by the name of Broadskenk, a German. I raised a party of men and pursued them, but as is generally the case they fly when they commit an outrage, and before the news or alarm is given, they are out of reach. We failed to overtake them. They fled in the direction of Spirit

Lake. Finding that we had a sufficient force at Fort Dodge to meet them, they generally fell back and kept aloof from our neighborhood at the Fort. Little was seen or heard from them during the year of 1856. Small parties only occasionally were seen on or about Lizard Lake, on Indian Creek and along the west branch of the Des Moines above McKnight's point and Big Island Grove.

## CHAPTER XI

### THE SPIRIT LAKE MASSACRE; WE ORGANIZE THREE COMPANIES OF VOLUNTEERS TO GO TO THE AID OF THE SETTLERS

The winter of 1856-57 was a very hard winter with very deep snow, so much that it was difficult to travel. The snow was from two and one-half to three feet deep on the level and very much drifted with a hard crust formed on it. So bad was the traveling that the frontier settlers were for two or three months entirely cut off from any intercourse with more thickly inhabited districts of the country. The Sioux taking advantage of this state of affairs, commenced depredations on the Little Sioux River about sixty miles west of Fort Dodge. A band of them (about eighteen Lodges) headed by Ink-pa-do-tah\* and Utanka-Sapa or Black Buffalo, a brother of Sleepy Eye, commenced depredations by robbing the inhabitants of provisions, horses, etc., and misusing the women in a most inhuman manner.

\* Major Williams spelled this chieftain's name two ways, Ink-a-pa-do-tah and then again Ink-pa-do-tah. It is well to remember that all he was endeavoring to do was to set down the way the name sounded.



They continued their course up the river to its source Okoboji and Spirit Lake to perpetrate the outrages later known as the Spirit Lake massacre. They murdered Mr. Gardner and his wife and son. One daughter about fifteen years of age they took with them as a prisoner. Close to Gardner's was the dwelling of his son-in-law, Mr. Luce. They murdered Mr. Luce, his wife and two children. Next they attacked Mr. Mattocks and family about one mile from Gardner's. There they murdered Mr. Mattocks, his wife and five children and a Mr. Matteson who boarded with them. About one hundred rods from Mattocks across the outlet from the lake was the house in which Mr. Granger Snyder and Harriotts resided. From the indications it appeared that Granger, Harriott and Jos. Harksman (a young man from Emmett City there on a visit) had proceeded to the assistance of Mr. Mattock's family. The Snyders remained to defend their own residence. It appeared that they left the house to save Mr. Mattock's women and children. The position the bodies were found in justified this conclusion. The women and children were some distance from their own home, apparently running on the path to Snyders. The men were found between them and the house from which they fled. Mr. Harriott was in a sitting posture in the snow, his Sharps rifle broken and a Colt revolver in his hand, only one charge having been fired. The men were

killed within a short distance of each other. The women and children lay in the direction of the house. Mr. Snyder was found in front of his own door. Everything indicated a severe fight. From appearances in the snow, three Indians must have fallen. It is somewhat strange the Sharps rifle and Colt revolver were not taken by the savages. These weapons were all numbered but what would an Indian know of that. This is proof, I think, that some of the half breeds from Missouri were engaged in the murders.

All the persons forming Mattock's family were found and buried but two children, who it was supposed were burned to death in the house. The appearance of the ashes favored such belief. About three miles from Mr. Mattock's the Indians murdered Mr. Howe, Mr. Nobles and four children, taking Mrs. Thatcher and Mrs. Howe prisoners. In these two houses the bodies were arranged in a pile and hay from the beds was thrown over them. Mr. Marble lived two miles north of Howes. They killed Mr. Marble and took his wife captive. This house presented the appearance of a hard fight as numerous balls had penetrated the door and the wash boiler on the stove was pierced by four balls. Near the Lake, Mr. Luce and Clarke of Waterloo were found murdered. Several others were subsequently found murdered in the vicinity of the Lakes.

The murders must have taken place about the 8th

or 9th of March, 1857, as near as we could judge. This horrible massacre was discovered by Morris Markman who had been absent from the Lake. On his return to Gardners he found all murdered, there and at Howes. He left and concealed himself in a snow bank all night and next day proceeded to Emmet City. \*

On the 15th of March, a Mr. Howe and Snyder from Newton arrived at the Lake (also a Mr. Parmenter in company with them) with provisions. When they found all the inhabitants murdered, they immediately hauled their load of provisions into the prairie, turned their team loose and fled, reaching the Irish Colony\* the next morning, and came from there to Fort Dodge. Just before the arrival of these men, two men from Little Sioux River succeeded in getting in. Their names were Ball and Williams. They reported the outrages on Little Sioux River. Upon being satisfied of the truth of the statements made by those men, dispatches were immediately sent to Webster City and Homer to turn out men to march to the relief of the frontier citizens.

I also commenced to enroll men at Fort Dodge. Webster City responded promptly, so did Homer. Between the two places they furnished about 40 men, Fort Dodge about eighty men. The second morning,

\* Now known as Emmetsburg, frequently referred to by the Major as the Irish settlement.

the 25th day of March, 1857, I had three companies organized and fitted out. The battalion consisted of one hundred and twenty men, divided into three companies; Company A commanded by Captain C. B. Richards, Company B by Captain John F. Duncombe and Company C by Captain J. C. Johnston of Webster City, Surgeon C. C. Bissell and Commissary George B. Sherman. On the morning of the 25th of March I moved up the west branch of the Des Moines river to intercept the savages, who reports said, were about to sweep all the settlements on the river.

## CHAPTER XII

JOSH'S WARNING—WE MARCH TO THE SCENE OF THE MASSACRE; WE MEET MANY SURVIVORS AND GIVE THEM ASSISTANCE; WE TURN TOWARD SPRINGFIELD, MINN., BUT THE U. S. TROOPS ARE AHEAD OF US; CAPT. BEE'S STRANGE BEHAVIOR; THE STORY OF THE FIGHT AT SPRINGFIELD; THE BURIAL PARTY GOES TO SPIRIT LAKE

Mr. Carter of Palo Alto County reported that some weeks before a young Indian named Josh, who had for some time been living with him, absented himself for several days in company of Ti-ton-ka (Big Buffalo). He returned to Carters about the last of February, and told Carter that he had better leave as the Indians were going to kill all the white people at the Lakes and then cross over to the Des Moines and come down that river, killing all white people as they came. After giving Carter this information, Josh left and the murders at the Lakes followed.

By forced marches through snow banks fifteen to twenty feet deep and swollen streams, we forced our way up to the state line, where we learned the Indians were two or three hundred strong at Spirit Lake and Big Island Grove. Never were harder services ren-

dered by any body of men than by the one hundred and ten men under my command who were able to reach the state line. Ten men of the one hundred and twenty who started with me gave out after the first and second days march and were discharged. Some were becoming blind and others were discharged for want of boots or shoes, two or three for insubordination and bad conduct. After the detachments were thus reduced, never was there a better set of men marched on any expedition than the one hundred and ten men left. We had to ford streams, breast deep every few miles and at all snow banks or drifts had to shovel out roads and draw our wagons through by hand with big ropes. All the men were wet all day up the middle and lay out on the open prairies at night without tents or other covering than a blanket or buffalo robe.

About eighty miles up, we expected to meet the Indians in force. After leaving Dakotah we found all the settlers from the country above were flying as far as they were able, with reports of Indians in their rear. We were very confident of meeting the Indians and took every precaution, keeping out an advance guard and scout constantly. No signs of them were discovered until we approached Big Island Grove. Some ten miles on this side we met two men who were flying from the Indians. They said the Indians were at the Grove and because of their ap-



pearance and conduct they became alarmed and fled. They reported as did some trappers we met, that Sleepy Eye was there with quite a band of warriors.

We labored under great disadvantages on our march from the depth of snow and high waters which obliged us to move slowly. Consequently we found it difficult to approach the enemy suddenly or take them by surprise. The country being flat prairie land they had the advantage of seeing us a great distance off, giving them time to escape before we could reach them. In approaching this grove, I threw forward scouts and an advance body of 25 men to creep up and discover the position of the Indians if there, and if they should discover them to report to me, keeping the main body stationary, supposing the Indians would watch it. But it was discovered by the advance scouts that the Indians had fled. On reaching the grove and surrounding Lakes, we found from the signs that the Indians had left probably the day previous. We found where their teepees stood and on the ice where they had been fishing and left quite a lot of fresh fish, a half finished canoe, and other things and also found they had plundered the settler's house and killed his oxen, cutting off portions of the flesh and knocking off the horns. From the Indians' trail and appearances generally, it was evident they had left in a hurry in the direction of Chain Lakes. Our march on these lakes was made early in the morning

under cover of a drizzling fog. Finding that the body of Indians posted there had fled, we proceeded by forced march to Granger's Point.

About three o'clock that afternoon our advance guard discovered in the distance what they took to be Indians. Our men succeeded in getting close to them, when they were discovered by this party, who, in turn, taking our men for Indians, began to prepare for defense as well as they could. After watching our men, a man by the name of Bradford, who was with the fleeing party, raised a white flag expressing the opinion that our men were not Indians. This was answered by our men who then approached them and found the supposed Indians to be a party who had escaped the massacre at Springfield on the upper Des Moines. The Indians had made Josh's story good. They had commenced on the upper settlements on the river and no doubt would have been joined by Sleepy Eye and his party as they came down, had we not interfered with their arrangements and broken up their plan of operations.

This party flying from Springfield was composed of three men who were unhurt, Granger, Bradshaw and Markman, and two men, Thomas, Carver and a young woman who were wounded and several women and children, in all, numbering about twenty persons. Thomas had his arm broken. Carver was shot through

the left arm, the ball lodging in the left side, a dangerous wound. The young woman was shot in the shoulder. They had escaped in the night, carrying nothing with them but what they had on when they were attacked and had been wandering about through the snow banks without anything but a little shelled corn for two days and two nights. They were about exhausted and the Indians were on their trail pursuing them. Had not our scouts discovered them and reported, there can be no doubt that they all would have been murdered that night.

We found them in a miserable condition, destitute of everything. Three of them were badly wounded and several of the women were without bonnets or shoes. The poor women had been wading breast deep through snow and water carrying their crying children. We pushed as fast as possible for timber, made fires and warmed them, also furnished them with provisions. We provided them with blankets and clothing to shield them from the severe weather, and gave them all the relief in our power. Our surgeon dressed the wounds of the wounded which were in bad state.

I expected to be attacked that night, as those people said Indians had been seen by them, following them that day. I caused but one fire to be made that night, posting silent sentinels and pickets, hoping to induce them to attack under the belief that the flying party was alone. Next morning, we sent the party

with an escort to the Irish Settlement\* to remain until we returned as all the settlers above that point had fled to that point where they were engaged in building a block house. We proceeded by as rapid a march as possible, keeping scouts in advance, reconnoitering and examining every point of timber, lake and stream where Indians might possibly be concealed, and found very fresh traces of Indians throughout the day. From their tracks or trails they were all going in the direction of Spirit Lake. We reached the state line near Springfield about sunset and encamped in the margin of a grove, cooked our suppers, and I gave order to prepare for a night march.

I detailed sixty men with rifles and six shooters and divided them in two divisions of thirty men each, with the intention of surprising the Indians before day-break next morning, having guides provided as we had information just furnished us that the Indians were encamped at or near the trading house of a half breed by the name of Caboo. We had great hopes that we would be able to overtake them and give a good account of them, but to our great mortification we found they had all fled upon the approach of fifty Regulars from Fort Ridgley under the command of Captain Bee. Had it not been for these troops approaching, we certainly would have overtaken them.

\* Emmetsburg.

The conduct of Captain Bee is hard to account for. On Thursday the 27th day of March, the Indians attacked the town of Springfield and neighborhood. The citizens defended themselves as well as they could and the battle and pillaging lasted until nightfall when the Indians withdrew. On Friday, in the afternoon, Captain Bee arrived with fifty men mounted on mules. He stayed at Springfield all day Saturday and assisted in burying some of the dead. He counseled with Caboo the half breed trader, who was the only one in the neighborhood left unharmed and known to be identified with the Indians and whose squaw (he is married to a squaw) was at the time wearing the shawl of Mrs. Church, together with other articles taken from the citizens. On Sunday morning without making any effort to pursue the Indians, who he must have known had taken off four white women as prisoners previous to that time, Captain Bee set out on their trail and followed them half of the day, finding their fresh camp fires and overtaking three or four straggling squaws. These he let go. He found their trail covered with all kinds of goods, thrown aside by the Indians to lighten their loads and expedite their flight. (Miss Gardner and Mrs. Marble who were with the Indians as prisoners, stated after their return that Captain Bee was so near to them when he stopped and returned that they occasionally saw his men in their rear).

When Bee ordered his men to return it is stated several of them expressed a wish to proceed, but his reply was he had no orders to pursue the Indians. It appeared afterwards that he was sent to protect Springfield from an attack after the news of the Spirit Lake Massacre. The Indians attacked Springfield before the Captain reached there and his position was, he had no orders to follow them, although he had it in his power to overtake them. Had Capt. Bee done his duty those Indians would have been overtaken, the prisoners and a great part of the property recovered.

Springfield is situated on the west side of the Des Moines River about eight miles north of the Iowa line. The Indians attacked this place on the 25th of March. In the afternoon they commenced by sending Umpa-sho-tah (whom the inhabitants all knew) forward. He called Mr. Stewart out of his house and said he wanted to buy a hog. They went to the pen to look at it, when four other Indians showed themselves and shot Mr. Stewart. Mrs. Stewart ran out and endeavored to drag her husband into the house, but was shot by the Indians. Two little children were then killed. All of this was observed by a little boy about eight years old who was concealed at Smiths. They fired about fifty shots, killed their dogs, oxen, etc., and withdrew. During the time they were firing at Smiths, rapid firing was heard at Woods' Trading House, also at Churches and Thomas'. In the attacks



after the first onslaught the inhabitants rushed into houses and secured the doors and windows. Having heard of the Spirit Lake Massacre, they were in some measure prepared to defend themselves.

At the house of Mr. Church and Mr. Thomas they defended themselves bravely. Mrs. Church and her sister loading guns, Mr. Bradshaw and others firing whenever a chance offered. The fight continued for some time. A son of Mr. Thomas was killed and Mr. Thomas, David Carver and the sister of Mrs. Church wounded, Bradshaw being the one man left to fire. Mrs. Church fired until the Indians withdrew. She killed one Indian.

The Indians continued the attack on the different houses in Springfield and vicinity until dark when they withdrew. At this point they killed nine and wounded three, and twelve were missing, some of whom were afterwards found. They robbed Woods' store and killed the two Woods brothers. At Spirit Lake and Springfield they killed 41, wounded 3 and took 4 prisoners, 12 were missing. Without doubt some of these 12 were killed. Probably in attempting to escape they were killed at some distance from the scene of action.

These Indians on Little Sioux River, at Spirit Lake and at Springfield, killed all the cattle and destroyed all kinds of property they could not carry off.

On arriving at Springfield, we found the United States Troops under Captain Bee had arrived before us, and that the Indians had all fled in the direction of the Big Sioux River. Our horses and cattle were exhausted and our provisions short. In a country where no supplies could be had, we had 110 men to feed, the weather was extremely severe and our provisions were reduced to about 100 pounds of flour, sixty or seventy pounds of rice, and a few biscuits, and about a bushel or two of frozen potatoes. We were unable to procure any feed for our oxen or horses, so I decided to return and leave Captain Bee to manage the balance of the difficulties, being satisfied that there were no Indians left in that part of the country. Captain Bee had visited Spirit Lake, and had buried one of the dead, Mr. Marble. Then he returned to Springfield, leaving some 28 or 29 unburied, exposed to the beasts of prey.

Ascertaining that the troops from Fort Ridgley had not buried the dead at Spirit Lake, I asked for volunteers to proceed to the Lakes, a distance of about 12 miles, to bury the bodies if they could be found. At once there were more offered to go than was required. I started 25 men on the duty with instructions to reconnoiter that district and if no Indians were discovered to bury the dead as an act of hu-

manity. Guides were furnished and they set out under the command of Captain Johnston and Lieutenant J. Maxwell, who applied for and were anxious to go on the duty.

## CHAPTER XIII

WE RETURN TO THE IRISH COLONY; MARCH BLIZZARDS; TERRIBLE HARDSHIPS; FOOD RUNNING LOW; CAPT. I. C. JOHNSTON AND WILLIAM BURKHOLDER ARE LOST. THE TROUBLE AT CYLINDER CREEK; THE LONG MARCH HOME.

They found no Indians at Spirit Lake but found where they had encamped, and they did find a dreadful destruction of life and property. They found and buried twenty-nine bodies, and also found the skulls of two who had been burned in a house. This detachment was instructed after performing their duty, to join the main body of our battalion. By crossing the country, I returned with the battalion to the Irish Colony, having a very difficult march, the snow having melted very fast for two days. All the streams were high and all the low ground was covered with snow and water. After arriving at the Irish Colony, and obtaining some provisions, as the men were entirely out, I purchased an ox and had him slaughtered. I found that the wounded and destitute folk we had sent there were doing as well as we could expect.

After remaining there one day and night, on Saturday evening we became uneasy about our Spirit

Lake party, as on Friday morning it commenced storming and continued to snow. The wind from the northwest was dreadfully high and cold, and it snowed very rapidly part of the time. I looked for Captain Johnston and his men anxiously all day Saturday, but at dark of that evening they had not arrived. About nine o'clock that morning I had started home with the main body of men. We had eaten up all the provisions the poor Irish people at the Colony had, they sharing to the last with us, so I concluded it would be prudent to push forward for home and as soon as possible send back provisions to the Irish Colony as they must have some relief some way.

We succeeded in getting as far as Cylinder Creek, 10 miles of wading and swimming through sloughs and streams of water. About one o'clock a dreadful snow storm came on, and arriving at Cylinder Creek we found the whole valley covered with water, better than a half-mile wide, varying from two feet to fifteen feet deep and terribly agitated by the strong wind. After making every effort by examining up and down the valley we found it impossible to get across the body of water. After wading through snow and water up to our middle, with Lieutenant Linn who accompanied me, we returned to the main body so completely chilled that we could not talk. I found Captain Duncombe and Richards superintending the caulking of wagon bodies which they

thought they could float across in. I found the women and children we had rescued were crying and exclaiming that they were freezing. I could not talk but I made signs and as well as I could directed that they should be hurried back to the Irish Colony, the only place we could send them to. That was done as speedily as possible. They launched one of the wagon bodies and four men, Captain Duncombe and three others floated across with the wind, but on attempting to return it was found impossible to get back against the wind. Seeing this, three or four of the men amongst whom I recollect James Sweeney of Webster City, seized hold of me and forced me on to a light wagon and ran me back to the Irish Colony where we landed after a hard ride facing the wind. We were very much exhausted. After recovering a little we found all the women and children safely landed with the exception of some frozen feet and faces. The main body of the men were left on the north bank of Cylinder Creek without anything to eat but a peck of raw rice and no wood to make a fire. They were completely cut off by water from all timber and a dreadful storm of wind and snow was raging. They lay there from 2:00 o'clock Saturday until Monday morning about 1 o'clock when they succeeded in crossing on the ice. During that time it was so cold that notwithstanding the agitation of that great body of water by the strong wind it had frozen so as to en-



able them to cross over. They cut up and made fires of all the wagons and all the wood they had to keep themselves warm as long as there was any left to cut up.

On returning to the Irish Colony, I could learn nothing of our Spirit Lake party under Captain Johnston and I found the provisions were all exhausted. I had to purchase another ox, slaughter him and divided it out amongst those in charge and the citizens who had divided their last with us. We saved a portion for our friends whom we had been so anxiously expecting from the Lake. A short time after dark one of Captain Johnston's men came in very much exhausted (young Spencer) but he could not account for the other men. He reported that he was separated from them in the snow storm, and after wandering about until he was exhausted he had dug a hole in a snow bank where he remained for some time. Then he set out and fortunately struck our trail which he followed until he came to a place where we had encamped as we went up. This place he recognized and from that followed our trail down. He had been entirely too far north.

About nine o'clock while we were warming him up and hearing his accounts another man came in, Johnas Murray, who had also been lost, and had wandered off from his party in the storm. He had succeeded in getting into a deserted cabin on the Des Moines, where

he found the remains of some bread left by the occupants when they fled. The opinion of both of these men was that the rest of the men would be in during the night. We sat up waiting for them but none appeared. In the morning Silas Vancleave came in very badly frozen. Soon after him George Smith came in and stated that on the evening before, he had left Captain Johnston and William Burkholder. He said that they had laid down in the snow and appeared to have despaired of getting any further. He stated also that the party had scattered taking different courses in getting around a large lake of water. We were becoming alarmed for their fate. I dispatched all hands to reconnoiter the country in the direction they should come in. Several were found almost entirely helpless. During the day (Sunday) we succeeded in getting in all but four or five. Mr. H. Carse, when found, was delirious, hands, feet and face badly frozen, the flesh was entirely off his heels and the bone laid bare. Messrs. Vancleave and Carse were very badly frozen. All but two or three were badly injured. We had fourteen men very badly frozen on the expedition and Captain I. C. Johnston of Company C and William Burkholder of Company A were entirely lost and never have been found. \* Every search was made at the time and since after all snow was gone and waters down, but no trace of them has been found.

\* Their skeletons were found eleven years later.

'Tis most likely that they were badly frozen and in attempting to cross some stream, sank and perished. They were both excellent young men. What was remarkable, they were the only ones who when I spoke of sending a party to the Lake came to me and asked to be included in the party. Both stated that they had a great desire to see Spirit Lake and the country around it. I appointed in consequence of his request Captain Johnston to lead the party and referred Mr. Burkholder to his captain, informing him that I would apply to the officer of the companies for ten men from each Company. When the officers mustered each of their ten men I observed Mr. Burkholder in the ranks, he remarked to me before he marched that if he liked the country he would probably return there and make a claim.

After making every arrangement possible for the wounded and frozen men, and leaving nurses for them and also for the women and children rescued, I started on Monday morning to join the main body of the men I had left at Cylinder Creek, fearing from their exposed situation and dreadful storm that had been raging that they had all perished. On arriving at the creek where I left them, I found they had all left. The storm had raged and it was so cold from Saturday until Monday morning that sufficient ice had formed on the large body of water to enable them to cross. Having made arrangements with the people at the

Irish Colony to bring down to Fort Dodge the women and children and such as could be moved as soon as the waters would fall, I pressed forward to secure wagons to bring down those who could not travel and to send medical aid to them. I attempted to cross Cylinder Creek with the others and fell in and came near perishing. Finally we were met by Captain Duncombe, who with two or three others came to our assistance. I found the men lying at Evans Point about three miles from Cylinder Creek, all apparently well. They had suffered very much from cold and hunger but had managed to save themselves from being frozen. We reached home at Fort Dodge the second day after. Too much praise cannot be bestowed on the men under my command on the expedition. Officers and men without exception did their duty. They endured the greatest privations and fatigue without a murmur for seventeen days. They pressed forward on their march, waded rivers and creeks breast deep and tugged wagons through snow banks, sleeping on the prairies in their wet clothes, without tents or covering, expecting to meet the Indians every mile after they reached McKnights Point, as the Indians threat on Sioux River was that they would sweep the Des Moines river settlements. Our men suffered very much owing to the severe snow storms and cold weather which came after having moderate weather. This moderate weather melted

the snow which was very deep, sufficient to raise all the streams above flood stage and covered all the low ground in the country with water. We made arrangements and as soon as possible, we had all the wounded and frozen men brought down to Fort Dodge, as well as the women and children who were rescued.

Immediately after, all the inhabitants on the north branch of the Des Moines and many from the east branch, as well as the upper country generally, deserted their homes and fled to Fort Dodge for safety. A perfect stampede took place. Constant alarms were raised, every object the timid could see on the prairies was made out to be Indians. Every sand hill crane seen was reported to be an Indian. At Algona the citizens built a fort and kept their ground. Every part of the country elsewhere was deserted and it took sometime to allay the fears of the people although we gave them every assurance that we had scoured the whole northern and northwestern part of the country and that all the Indians had fled from the state. Still the argument was they would come back again.

This alarm and massacre by the Indians injured this northern part of Iowa very much as it intimidated emigrants and prevented a great many of the settlers from getting in any crops that season. It was something like a year before the people became reconciled



or settled down with any kind of confidence in being secure from the attacks of the Indians.

As near as we could ascertain, the Indian force engaged in these massacres must have been from 150 to 200 warriors, judging from their deserted encampments, etc., and from the reports and appearances, the struggle or fight both at the Lakes and at Springfield must have been very severe. From every appearance there must have been fifteen or twenty Indians killed and wounded judging from the number seen to fall at Springfield and the bloody clothes and pools of blood found where their teepees stood at the Lakes. The conflict appeared to have been very severe at the house of Mr. Mattocks at the Lake, eleven dead bodies were found there together with several broken guns. There they appeared to have fought hand to hand. It is certain that many of the Indians engaged in those attacks were from the Missouri river from the Yankton bands as several of them were at Springfield a day or two before the attack there, and after the attack at the Lake. They wanted to buy powder from Woods, the trader. He refused to credit them and failing to get it on credit, they bought to the amount of \$80 and paid gold for it. These and others with them were strangers to the people at Springfield who were told by Umpa-sho-ta that they were Canada Indians. Several of them were dressed in frock coats with red sashes around their waist and had the appearance of



half-breeds. Woods stated that he inquired of them where the Indians were who attacked the Lake. The reply was "at Swan Lake burying their dead." He improperly told them that the people at Springfield had sent to Fort Ridgley for troops which statement no doubt hastened the attack on Springfield.

## CHAPTER XIV

THE PEOPLE WE RESCUED; HOW THEY WERE CARED FOR; MRS. MARBLE'S STORY; CAPTURED BY THE INDIANS AT SPIRIT LAKE; THE HORRORS OF HER CAPTIVITY; RANSOM BY THE LA-QUI-PARLE INDIANS

On the return of our battalion to Fort Dodge and the arrival of the wounded and disabled with the destitute who had been rescued from the savages, every attention and kindness was bestowed on them by our citizens and generally they were assisted to their relatives and friends in the east. There were some who had no relatives to fly to. Among the number was a little boy about 8 years old, John Stewart, whose family were all killed at Springfield. He happened to be out of the house when the Indians attacked and hid himself behind a log. There he witnessed the murder of his father and mother and two little sisters. He lay concealed until after dark when he made his way to the house of Mr. Thomas where they had successfully resisted the Indians. The Thomases took him in. Another child about four years of age had been picked up by Mr. Smith, a lame man, and saved by him. Smith lay with the child two days and nights in a snow bank

without anything to eat. The child's name was given by Smith as John Sheigley. I never witnessed a more affecting scene in my life than I witnessed when we found those destitute people on the prairies. We found them in a most distressed situation. We hurried them to a point of timber, the men assisting in carrying the children. On reaching the grove the men stacked their arms and flew to cutting wood and building fires to warm the half naked party. Every man in the detachment busied himself to relieve them and to make them comfortable. Soon fires were started and provisions turned out to relieve the hungry. Blankets, buffalo robes, overcoats were freely furnished them. The generous and noble feeling of the men caused many of them to literally strip themselves to supply the wants of the distressed.

While they were preparing a meal, I inquired more particularly into the situation of the affairs of these people and found it distressing. There were destitute mothers with three or four little children hanging onto them all crying, some with their little feet and hands frozen, each mother gathering around her the little flock that belonged to her, shedding tears over them; the wounded having their wounds dressed. The whole scene was heartrending. I saw many of our men, noble fellows, retire to one side and weep like children. When our meal was prepared for the first time, I discovered two children whom no one claimed. Upon

inquiring I found that they were the only survivors of families—they were the little boys named John Stewart and John Sheigley, that I told you about. The latter was a particularly fine child, but very lightly clothed and his little feet were frozen. I noticed him first wandering about around the fires wanting or asking for something to eat. Upon inquiring, I found he had no protector left, neither had John Stewart. I took the two boys in charge and had them attended to. John Stewart I put in charge of Mr. Dawson on our arrival at Fort Dodge, at the request of Mr. Dawson, who had been with us on the expedition. The other little boy, John Sheigley, I adopted and determined to raise him and educate him and shall do so. He is a very promising little fellow.

Through the exertions of the Indian agent, Mr. Flandreu, of Minnesota, and the officers of Fort Ridgley and through the aid of two friendly Indians of the La-qui-parle band named "Roaring Cloud" and "Gray Foot," the Governor succeeded in rescuing two of the prisoners taken, Mrs. Marble and Miss Annie Gardner, after a captivity of about three months, the other two prisoners, Mrs. Thatcher and Mrs. Noble, were murdered by the Indians. The following is a statement made by Mrs. Marble after her return:

She stated that on the 13th of March, 1857, a party of Indians came to the residence of her husband at Spirit Lake, Iowa, murdered him and took her off as

a prisoner to their camp in the vicinity of the Lake. At the camp she found a Mrs. Thatcher, a Mrs. Noble, and a Miss Gardner, all of whom had been taken prisoners by the Indians in their attack on the settlers at the Lake. Mrs. Thatcher's husband had escaped through a temporary absence from home and so had Mrs. Noble's, but the entire family of Miss Gardner had been murdered.

The Indians broke up their camp at Spirit Lake immediately and proceeded to Herron Lake, a distance of about twenty-five miles where they encamped and left their squaws and prisoners and started on an expedition, Mrs. Marble supposed to the Des Moines, at Springfield, where they committed other murders. They returned to the camp at Herron Lake in about ten days with a large supply of powder, dry goods, guns, horses, etc., all of which had probably been secured in their attack on Springfield. On the next day after their return, the Indians broke up their camp and started westward. They were on the march every day for upwards of a month, and only rested at Skunk Lake west of the Big Sioux River, and about one hundred and twenty-five miles northwest of Spirit Lake. Mrs. Marble estimated the distance traveled at four or five hundred miles, probably owing to the torturous course pursued by the Indians to avoid pursuit. She thinks they arrived at Skunk Lake about the first day of May. Here they remained five days,

when the fortunate circumstances transpired which resulted in the release of Mrs. Marble from captivity.

Immediately on starting from Herron Lake she stated that she and her associates were forced to carry heavy packs and perform degrading and menial services in camp. She stated that the pack she was compelled to carry consisted of two bags of shot, each weighing 25 pounds and a lot of camp furniture, bringing the weight of the pack to one hundred pounds. On top of this heavy load which this weak, ill-used and distracted woman was forced to carry was placed the additional weight of an Indian urchin of some three or four years of age. The snow was very deep, the prisoners were but thinly clad and most of the time suffered from hunger. The warm clothing they had on them when they were made prisoners was taken from them by the squaws and in its place they received but a scanty supply ill-suited to the weather and the exposure they were forced to undergo. At times the unfortunate captives would fall to the ground, exhausted and entirely unable to proceed farther, then the inhuman wretches would place the muzzle of a loaded gun at their heads and threaten them with instant death unless they would immediately continue their weary march. When a horse stolen at the settlement would die or be killed by the Indians for food the prisoners were allowed to recruit their exhausted strength with a supply of horse flesh,



but with these exceptions they suffered greatly for want of food and were glad to snatch up the bones thrown down by the Indians after they had eaten. Mrs. Marble stated that they were often forced to eat the wing feathers plucked from the ducks shot by the Indians and shriveled before the fire to save themselves from starvation.

When the Indians would encamp for the night the captives were compelled to carry wood and water and build fires and put up teepees. They were, however, never allowed to prepare the food. At first they very naturally rebelled at the treatment they received, but the Indians beat them with clubs into submission to their orders. Mrs. Marble stated that she soon discovered the only way to secure herself from ill treatment was to perform the duties assigned her with cheerfulness and alacrity. She, Mrs. Noble and Miss Gardner pursued this course and were treated more kindly than their associate Mrs. Thatcher, who was in delicate health and utterly unable to do the amount of labor or work required of her. This led to a most tragic and horrible occurrence, when the party crossed the Big Sioux. They arrived at this stream about fifteen days after leaving Herron Lake. The Indians cut down several trees on each side of the river, and thus made a bridge across it. When Mrs. Thatcher attempted to cross, she was thrown into the river; she succeeded in swimming to within a short distance of

the opposite shore when one of the Indians shot her through the head, killing her instantly. The body of the unfortunate woman was left floating in the stream, her death hailed by the Indian women with loud shouts of joy and exultation. The feelings of the surviving prisoners at this murder cannot be imagined. They thought they beheld in Mrs. Thatcher's death the fate reserved for them, when overpowered by fatigue they would be unable to proceed. About five days later when they reached Skunk Lake the two Lac-qui-parle Indians made the appearance at the camp of Ink-pa-do-tah's band. They were well received by the chief and his followers. A feast followed, at which the Indians related their exploits at Spirit Lake, boasting of the murders they had committed, the goods they had stolen.

The Lac-qui-parle Indians remained in the camp all night, keeping a very sharp lookout on the movements of the Chief Ink-pa-do-tah who they apprehended would attempt violence. The next morning having previously learned that the Indians had the three white women in the camp, they made a proposition to purchase one of the captives. After considerable negotiations, Ink-pa-do-tah's band consented to part with Mrs. Marble in consideration of receiving one gun, a lot of blankets, a keg of powder and a small supply of Indian trinkets. The two Indians immediately started homeward with Mrs. Marble and arrived at Lac-qui-

parle on the 20th of May. On the journey they treated Mrs. Marble with great kindness furnishing her with warm clothing, carrying her over streams and providing her with food. It took them ten days to travel after they left Ink-pa-do-tah's camp to reach Lac-qui-parle. On their arrival the two Indians who are brothers and known as "Gray Foot" and "Roaring Cloud" placed Mrs. Marble in their father's lodge where she was treated with equal consideration and kindness until Messrs. Williamson and Riggs, missionaries arrived and took charge of her.

"Roaring Cloud" and "Gray Foot" reported the band of Ink-pa-do-tah to number about fifteen lodges. They said these Indians are well armed each of them possessing a revolver, a rifle and other weapons.

Through the exertion of the Indian agent at Lac-qui-parle and the Governor of Minnesota, Medeia, the Indians of Lac-qui-parle succeeded in purchasing from Ink-pa-do-tah's band, another prisoner, Miss Abbie Gardner, the remaining one alive, about one month after the rescue of Mrs. Marble. Miss Gardner's statements agreed with the statements of Mrs. Marble with the addition of what transpired after Mrs. Marble left. She stated that after the departure of Mrs. Marble the Indians changed their location and proceeded to Jaques or James river where Mrs. Noble from exhaustion and weakness gave out and sank down in despair. After dark one evening she came

into the teepee where Miss Gardner was. Mrs. Noble appeared greatly distressed and stated that she would rather die than longer submit to the treatment she was receiving. Immediately after an Indian, an older son of Ink-pa-do-tah entered the teepee and ordered Mrs. Noble to come out. She refused, saying they might kill her, but go she would not. He seized her and dragged her out where other Indians were heard talking. Miss Gardner very much alarmed, covered her face and crept into a corner of the teepee where she heard the screams of Mrs. Noble followed by blows with a club. The Indians beat her brains out, along side of the very teepee in which Miss Gardner lay. Next morning she saw the horrible sight of Mrs. Noble lying murdered, her head literally beaten to a jelly. This left Miss Gardner, a young girl about 15 years of age, alone in the hands of the savages. Her ransom was soon after affected. Colonel Lee of Massachusetts, who was at St. Paul when she arrived there, brought her to me at Fort Dodge where the means were furnished to convey her to her relatives.

## CHAPTER XV

### THE HEROIC VOLUNTEERS WHO WENT TO THE AID OF THE SETTLERS—HOW THEY WERE REWARDED

The whole history of our country does not furnish an account of so great an outrage in Indian warfare as that committed by these Sioux Indians from the time they commenced on Little Sioux River until they fled from Springfield upon the approach of the troops.

There can be but little doubt that these attacks and acts of barbarism were committed by Ink-pa-do-tah and his band in retaliation for the murder of his brother, mother and others by Lott in January, 1854, together with the fact that the white settlers were rapidly encroaching upon them by settling on Little Sioux River, Coon River, the Okoboji Lakes, Spirit Lake and the upper Des Moines, their old and favorite haunts and hunting grounds.

From the course they pursued, not only killing the inhabitants but all the cattle, and breaking up and destroying all farming utensils and furniture, it would seem they intended to exterminate all and lay the country waste with the hope of preventing further settlements or they intended to do all the harm they

could and forever quit the country. If they thought to prevent the whites from going into the country they were mistaken. For scarcely had the troops returned and reported that all Indians had fled from the country when a party of Yankee Abolitionists from the east, no doubt some of the descendants of the Old Mayflower crew, rushed to Spirit Lake and seized upon the claims of the poor murdered families, appropriating their improvements to their own use. These plunderers were headed by a certain Doctor Prescott, whose religion sanctioned him in the attempt to rob the poor children of the murdered fathers of their rights and make way for a colony of negroes which afterwards he was endeavoring to bring on. It is hoped that Congress will interfere and dispossess the wretch and restore to the remains of the several families their claims. This Prescott is an abolitionist preacher and belongs to that class of incendiaries that are a curse to any country.

There can be no doubt as to the intentions of the Indians to sweep the Des Moines River settlements and murder all the settlements on both branches of the river, had it not been for the prompt action of the citizens of Webster and Hamilton counties in flying to their rescue. Sleepy Eye with a band of his Indians, was in waiting at Big Island Grove ready to join the party led by Ink-pa-do-tah and to assist in carrying out the design as made known by Josh to Carter. The



approach of our battalion, no doubt, was discovered by Sleepy Eye in time to enable him and his party to fly and communicate the fact of our approach to Ink-pa-do-tah and his band. I came to this conclusion from the fact that Sleepy Eye had from all appearances of his camp left it the day before we reached it, and from the trails they left in a hurry and took the direction that would lead them to the point where Ink-pa-du-tah was at the time.

I will record the names of the men composing the battalion that marched from Fort Dodge, 25th of March, 1857, to the rescue of the frontier settlers at Spirit Lake and Springfield, etc., as follows taken from the Rolls:

Major William Williams, Commander

C. R. Bissell, Surgeon

George B. Sherman, Commissary

Company A:

Captain Charles B. Richards

Lieutenant Franklin A. Stratton

Sgt. S. K. Wright

Cpl. Solom Mason

Privates:

William Burkholder, lost in snow storm,  
never found

George W. Brazee

Julius Conrad

Cyrus C. Carpenter

J. W. Dawson

L. D. Crawford

John Farney

Wm. Ford, badly frozen

John Gates

Andrew Hood

Henry Carse, very badly frozen

———Chatterton

B. F. Parmenter

William Defore

L. B. Ridgeway

Michl Maher

Winton Smith

E. Mahan

Angus McBane

Wm. P. Pollock

William McCauley

Wm. F. Porter

R. A. Smith

Geo. P. Smith, frozen slightly

O. S. Spencer, badly frozen

C. Stebbens, badly frozen

Silas Vancleave, badly frozen

R. W. Wheelock

David Westerfield

This Company A was composed of men citizens of Fort Dodge and vicinity with the exception of eight who were from the upper Des Moines, viz:

R. W. Wheelock

Jno. Farney

B. F. Parmenter

Jno. Gales

M. Maher

Wm. McCauley

E. Mahan

———Chatterton

Company B:

John F. Duncombe, Captain

James Linn, First Lieutenant

S. E. Stevens, Second Lieutenant

Wm. K. Koons, Sergeant

Thomas Callagan, Corporal

## Privates:

Jesse Addington, badly frozen	
A. Burch	D. H. Baker
Hiram Benjamin, badly frozen	
Orlando Bice	Jeremiah Evans
Rich Carter	Orlando C. Howe
A. E. Crouse	Daniel F. Howell
R. F. Carter	Albert Johnston
Jonas Murrey, badly frozen	
Michael Cavanaugh	Daniel Morrissey
Geo. F. McClure	J. N. McFarland
A. H. Malcombe	Michael McCarty
Morris Mackham, frozen slightly	
Daniel Okeson, discharged, snow blind, third day	
Jno. O. Laughlin, discharged third day at Dakotah	
Guernsey Smith	Jno. M. Thatcher
Robert McCormick, frozen slightly	
William Searls	William B. Wilson
John White	Washington Williams
Rheuban Whetstone	

This Company B was composed of men citizens of Fort Dodge and vicinity in Webster county, with the exception of nine who were from the upper Des Moines, viz:

Richard Carter	Morris Markham
R. F. Carter	J. M. Thatcher

Jeremiah Evans  
 Orlando C. Howe  
 Wm. B. Wilson

Robt. McCormick  
 W. Searls

### Company C:

Captain J. C. Johnston, lost in snow storm,  
 never found

First Lieutenant, Jno. N. Maxwell, badly frozen

Second Lieutenant, F. Mason

Sergeant H. Hoover

Cpl. A. N. Hathaway

Sherman Cassiday

A. F. Fellis

Elias D. Kellogg, frozen slightly

A. S. Leonard, snow blind, discharged at Dakotah

John Gage

James Brainard

F. B. Barebone

Humphrey Hilliton

Michael Sweeny

M. W. Howland

R. W. Moody

J. C. Pemberton, badly frozen

Alonzo Richardson

John Erie

Thos. Anderson

W. K. Laughlin

John Noland

W. W. Ates

James Hickey

Wm. Church

Patrick Conlin

Patrick Stafford

Jareb Palmer

This Company C was composed of men from Hamilton County with the exception of six men who be-

longed to Palo Alto county who were attached to it, viz:

John Noland

John Erie

James Hickey

Jareb Palmer

Patrick Conlin

Patrick Stafford

The foregoing three companies composed the battalion numbering ninety-nine men. We marched with 120 men. The second and third day's march proved several were not made of the right kind of stuff. They were discharged and their names stricken from the rolls. Two became snowblind so badly they were unable to do duty, viz: Daniel O. Keson and A. S. Leonard. Four were discharged for insubordination and bad conduct, and their names stricken from the rolls. We were joined on the upper Des Moines by several trappers and others which in part made up the numbered 110 men who marched to the line. The foregoing rolls include the names of those who faithfully did their duty in what was certainly one of the severest expeditions ever made in the country. The fatigue and suffering was much greater than any one can conceive who was not along to experience it. I can testify that a better body of men cannot be raised than those whose names are included in the foregoing rolls, who served to the end of the expedition.

Governor J. W. Grimes and Governor Lowe both used their influence with our state legislature to have them make an appropriation to pay those men for

their services and refund to them money actually expended in the expedition, which the legislature failed to do. The next session they again made the effort. After meeting with great opposition, they got a bill through allowing them 75 cents on a dollar. This much was accomplished by our members, Mr. Duncombe and Rees who were opposed most violently by the Black Republic members, for no other reason evidently than political opposition. The opponents were headed by John Scott of Story County, aided by Aldricks of the Hamilton Freeman. Let the names of these men, or rather fellows, be handed down to the children of these brave men who risked their lives in the effort to save their country and rescue their fellow citizens from the scalping knife of the invading savage. Not a man of them ever thought or dreamt of compensation for their services when they marched. True patriotism alone prompted them to turn out. Nothing could have prompted Scott of Story County, Wilson of Jefferson County and their band of political jugglers in our legislature from granting the appropriation to pay those men but the fact that the bill was introduced by Democratic members. So low, so groveling in their aims were they, lost to every good feeling and sense of duty and right, for three years they opposed giving these men any compensation, and when they were literally forced by public opinion to grant something they passed a bill that obliged every



man to expend the greater part of his allowance by traveling after it to the seat of government and before they granted it even on those terms, some of the men were dead, some of them had left the country. The whole amount required was only between three and four thousand dollars, yet they opposed the appropriation, and for political effect, passed a law authorizing the governor to raise a company of men to be stationed on the frontiers. This company they kept out parts of two years at a cost of from \$10,000 to \$12,000 and the company was mustered into service armed and equipped in a manner that rendered them useless.

## CHAPTER XVI

### THE STREAMS IN WEBSTER COUNTY

The Des Moines River signifies the river of the Monks—it was named by the French, it is said from some Monks at a very early period settling near the mouth of the river. It was named Des Moines from the mouth up to the Racoon Forks originally. From the junction up it was formerly known by the name of the River of the Sioux. After Fort Des Moines was abandoned and the whites began to settle, they called the stream above the forks by the same name, and in more modern times, with the view of securing the land to the state under the Des Moines River grant, they published maps, giving it the name of the Des Moines River up to its source. It runs in a winding course through the country from northwest to south.

The next most important stream in Webster county is the Boon river—it runs through the southeastern part of the county and empties into the Des Moines about four miles south of Homer. This river was named after Captain Boon of the U. S. Army, who with his company of Dragoons was the first explorer of this northern country.

The Lizard river enters the county of Webster, the north branch from the northwest and the south branch from the southwest. The two branches come together about two miles west of the Des Moines and then it enters or empties into the Des Moines about a quarter of a mile above Fort Dodge on the west side of the river. This river was also named Lizard River by Captain Boon from the fact that when he and his men crossed the stream above the mouth, the shores and rocks above water were covered with lizards so numerous that they gave the name to the stream.

Soldier Creek, a stream that washes the north line of the town plat of Fort Dodge. It was named by the officers stationed at the Fort, from the fact that along that creek was a favorite hunting ground for the men when off duty.

Deer Creek south of Fort Dodge was so named from the fact that about its head in deep ravines and hill sides there was, for two or three years after the troops arrived at Fort Dodge, a great resort for deer.

Elkhorn Creek on the west side of the Des Moines running through Mr. Boots' place, entering the river a short distance above the ford was named Elkhorn from the fact that when we first came to establish Fort Dodge we found a short distance above the mouth of the stream the skeleton of an elk of large size, the horns entangled and fast in three young trees that sprung up apparently from one root. So fast were

the horns that they could not be separated from the trees. The animal it appeared had been scratching or horning the trees when his horns became so firmly entangled that he had died unable to extricate himself. This caused the stream to be named Elkhorn by the troops.

Elk Run five miles south of Fort Dodge on the way to Des Moines was named Elk Run from the fact that it was a favorite resort for the Elk and the first Elk killed when we first came to the country were killed on that run.

Brushey Creek east of Fort Dodge was so named from the fact that brush and small growth were growing very thick along the stream originally.

Skillet Creek south of Fort Dodge on the river was so named by the first settlers from the fact that an iron skillet was found on the creek bottom where some one had encamped (and likely left in a hurry) and left the iron skillet behind them.

Crooked Creek on the west side of the river south of Fort Dodge was so named by the first settlers owing to its winding crooked course through the prairies.

Indian Creek (sometimes called Deer Creek) eight miles north of Fort Dodge, west side of the river, was originally named Indian Creek by the officers stationed at Fort Dodge from the fact that we found on

that creek a large encampment of Indians. It appeared to be an old resort for them as there were quite a number of Indian graves there.

Beaver Creek, 10 miles north of Fort Dodge was so named because it was a favorite stream for trapping beaver and originally there were beaver dams along it and the lakes near it.

Badger Creek, five miles north of Fort Dodge on the east side of the river was so called for the reason that some soldiers from the Fort on crossing that creek with their dogs encountered a badger, an animal they did not know. They set their dogs on it and it whipped their dogs. Then they shot it, and brought it into the garrison for exhibition, not knowing what it was, but declaring it could whip all the dogs in the garrison. This gave the creek the name Badger.

## CHAPTER XVII

### THE SIOUX INDIAN CHIEFS—HOW I PUBLICIZED WEBSTER COUNTY AND FORT DODGE

The Sioux Indians who inhabited this district of the country were of the most desperate character, made up the renegades from all bands. They were generally very active, stout Indians, great horsemen. The majority of them were well armed with guns. They always had in their possession horses and mules with white men's brands. They generally encamped on high ground where they could not be easily surprised and when any number of them are together they encamp in a circle. They are very expert hunters. Their famous leaders—Sidom-i-na-do-tah and Ink-a-pa-do-tah were very stout active men also Ti-ton-ka, Umpasho-tah and indeed all of them. Si-dom-i-nah-do-tah was a man about five feet ten inches, stout, well formed, very active, had a piercing eye, broad face, high cheek bones—his teeth were double all around in both jaws, were united forming solid rims in both upper and lower jaw. When he was killed he was about 45 or 50 years old. Had but two fingers on the right hand, having lost two in battle, hence he was generally called "Two Fingers."



Ink-a-pa-do-tah, \* about 55 years old, is five feet eleven inches high, stoutly built, broad shoulders, large head and broad face, high cheek bones, sunken eyes, very black sparkling eyes, big mouth, light copper color and pock marked in the face.

Ti-ton-ka is over six feet high, very well made, very active in his walk, very erect and elastic, long face, aquiline nose, very dark complexion and eyes, sparkling when roused, looks very demure, when not excited, wears his hair long, cheek bones prominent, when excited he is a hard looking customer, age about 55.

Um-pa-sho-tah or Umpago, is a very good looking Indian, about five feet ten inches in height, complexion light yellow, a good forehead, high cheek bones, large dark eyes, aquiline nose, a well formed mouth, a fine set of teeth which he shows to good advantage, has an exceedingly cunning expression of the eyes, professes to be a doctor, age about 45 or 50 and very fond of trading.

Wa-kon-sa his son, aged now about 23 or 24 years, is about six feet high, exceedingly well made, light copper color, a well formed face, aquiline nose, prominent chin, brilliant dark eyes, very pleasant countenance, very shrewd and inquiring, very fond of dress, generally dresses in tanned deer skin with a great many extra trappings about his leggings, very particular in

\* The Major spells this name some places Ink-pa-do-tah.

dressing his hair, paints uniformly in one way, that is a star on his forehead, one on each cheek and one on his chin, a very cheerful, pleasant looking fellow.

Cos-o-me-nak is about five feet ten inches high, very dark complexion, rather a well shaped face, very silent, has a stealthy suspicious look, seldom speaks unless spoken to, very fond of horses, pays more attention to his pony than himself, generally has his pony's mane and tail ornamented with red tape and feathers, a good horseman.

Mo-co-aque-mon, the oldest son of Ink-a-pa-dotah who was killed at Yellow Medicine was a stout well-made fellow, about five feet eleven inches high, dark complexion, broad face, high cheek bones, small dark eyes, low forehead, and a scowling look, thick lips, big mouth, very fond of trinkets, wore large earrings, arm and wrist bands, and red leggings, always.

Mo-co-po-ko-mon, the second son is a stoutly made Indian, very active, about five feet ten inches in height, when I last saw him. Must now be about 21 years of age, rather light complexion, broad face, dark eyes cunning expression of countenance rather a sullen look generally, fond of trading and foot racing, also a great hunter.

Ish-ta-ha-bah or Sleepy Eye is about 50 years of age, I suppose, about six feet high, rather lightly built, light complexion, a well formed face, pleasant countenance, the left eye is defective. It appears he cannot

more than half open it, the eyelid seems to be powerless. The right eye is brilliant. He is very fond of being dressed in anything like military costume, generally wears an infantry officer's cap and red blanket and red leggings, boasts of his 500 warriors and calls himself Tonka Captain (big Captain).

After the garrison left, for two years the three or four of us lived pretty much excluded from the world, but seldom saw the face of a white man, the only individuals who ever visited us was old man John Johns, Frank McGuire and one or two others who once or twice in the year came up the river in canoes, bee hunting or on a trapping expedition. They generally encamped with us and gave us a night's talk, told marvelous hunting stories, John's in particular, made himself out a perfect lion. Also Jacob Bell came up once or twice; they appeared to be very much at a loss to know what in the world induced us to stay here. I spent my time principally in writing for the papers, and using this means to bring this section of the country into notice. I wrote letters to friends in all parts of the country. I wrote for the St. Louis Republican, for the Miners Express in Dubuque, as well as for eastern papers, describing the country with the view of directing the attention of the public to it—being satisfied that eventually Fort Dodge must be a point on the main route from Chicago to the South Pass, or the great route from east to west. Upon examination of

the maps, I found Fort Dodge was very nearly on a straight line from Dubuque to the South Pass varying not more than six or eight miles. I concluded as it has since turned out that Dubuque would be made a point. I also wrote upon the subject of a railroad from St. Louis to Fort Des Moines from thence up the Des Moines Valley to the big bend of the St. Peters or Fort Ridgley in Minnesota, urging it as the policy of the south to secure the trade of the Des Moines Valley and Minnesota. I wrote over the signature of "A Looker On." I refer you to the Missouri Republican of the 30th of September, 1854, for some of the arguments used. I also wrote for the Dubuque Miners Express and eastern papers urging the attention of the eastern capitalists to the great route from Chicago to Dubuque thence by way of Fort Dodge to Sargents Bluffs, Fort Laramie and South Pass, satisfied from the rapid improvements of Chicago and the great tide of emigrating to the west that there would sooner or later be a railroad established from east to west. I used every argument to turn the attention of the south to the importance of making a railroad from St. Louis up the Des Moines Valley to Minnesota, urging that such road would cross all roads that might be made from east to west and would prevent a diversion of trade from them.

## CHAPTER XVIII

### EPILOGUE

After the Spirit Lake Massacre, and after the time of this history, at the age of 64, Major William Williams recruited a company of men known as Company B of the Northern Border Brigade and designed and built Fort Schuyler on Iowa Lake, or Silver Lake, in the Northwest corner of Emmet county. They garrisoned and maintained that Fort for a period of about one year during the Civil War to defend the frontier villages of Northern Iowa against the Indians. There were five of these forts—one was located at Estherville named Fort Defiance.

The ages of the men who served in this Border Brigade and went into this company on September 24, 1862, ranged from 18 to Major William Williams' age of 64. They were from Fort Dodge, Border Plains, from Mineral Ridge in Boone County; from Dayton, then known as West Dayton; Ridge Port in Boone County; Palmer and a town named West Point in Webster County. Major William Williams served as the captain of this Company of 52 men. Of those who served the average age was 28. Strangely enough,

only one of the men in that Brigade was born in Iowa. Jasper M. Bell who was 22 years old at the time of enlistment lived in Fort Dodge. He was born in Iowa in 1840, during territorial days. Of the others, 4 were born in Ireland, one in Scotland, one in Sweden, eight in Pennsylvania, one in Connecticut, two in Maine, five in Indiana, five in North Carolina, two in Tennessee, four in Ohio, six in Missouri, one in Maryland, two in Illinois, one in Virginia, one in Kentucky and one in Massachusetts.

Fort Schuyler, some of the old foundations of which can still be seen, was located eight miles north of Armstrong in Emmet County. It is the only one of these five forts built in the northern part of the state at that time that still remains unmarked. (1950). At various times movements have been started to provide some suitable marker for this now deserted and forgotten military post. Some years ago Harvey Ingham, of the Des Moines Register was interested in the project but it still remains to be done.

Major William Williams died February 26, 1874. The following is an account of his funeral as taken from the files of a newspaper of that day:

"The largest concourse of people we ever saw together in Fort Dodge was at the funeral of Major William Williams on last Sabbath. He was buried with Masonic honors, the Odd Fellows participating. After the usual services of the Episcopal Church, ren-



dered by Rev. Charles Stout, rector, the remains were placed in the vestibule of St. Mark's Church, where hundreds of people, passing in at one door and out at the other, took a last look at the remains of the old pioneer. The corpse then being placed in the hearse, it was slowly and solemnly driven to the cemetery, preceded by the Masons and Odd Fellows and followed by hundreds of carriages and wagons filled with citizens of the town and country. The Masonic fraternity, assisted by the Odd Fellows, closed the solemn scene, leaving the remains of the oldest citizen and Mason in Webster County, and that once contained the warm heart that throbbed for others' woes, to sleep the long sleep of peace."

At the same time a letter was published from Governor C. C. Carpenter, who at that time was Governor of Iowa, the same man who started the first school in Fort Dodge, the same man who accompanied Major Williams to the scene of the Spirit Lake Massacre. The following is the letter:

"My Dear Sir:—Last Saturday P. M. I received from you a telegram requesting me to be present the next day to attend the funeral ceremonies of Major Williams, I telegraphed you at the time my regrets, that my duties here were of such a character as to render it impossible for me to leave. I wanted to be present, to pay my last tribute of respect to the founder and first citizen and best friend of Fort Dodge.

Twenty years ago next June, when a young man, without a dollar in the world, I came to what now constitutes Fort Dodge, he was the first man I met. The town had just been laid out by the Major, and James B., his son, with William R. Miller and family, Robert and John Scott, and two of the Van Cleaves, constituted its entire population. The Major then took me by the hand and told me the west was full of opportunities for young men who had force and a will to stick. From that day to this, I have been familiar with his life and character. In many respects he was a remarkable man. He was endowed with more than ordinary natural shrewdness and a keen judgment of human nature. No man could associate much with him and not be thoroughly analyzed and understood, even to his interior thoughts by him. He knew well how to influence and direct other men, when he desired to accomplish an object through an agency for others than himself. I was struck with his remarkable power of quietly directing other minds during the Spirit Lake Expedition in the spring of 1857. Here a hundred men voluntarily placed themselves under his command, and although upon that expedition, in wading streams, hauling wagons by hand through drifted snows, putting themselves upon half rations, they endured as great fatigue, hardship and deprivation as it was possible for men to endure, still, there was nothing to bind them together, nothing to keep

them from turning back, but their own sense of duty and the great moral force and example of Major Williams. His orders through the three captains of companies—Duncombe, Richards and Johnston—were obeyed with as much alacrity as any enlisted men ever obeyed the orders of a superior officer. And I remember as if it were today, how the old hero, then over sixty, walked by the side of his command, performing himself any hardship, and accepting any exposure, that he would ask of the strongest man in the ranks; thus keeping in the command a good morale, and inspiring a spirit of endurance by the simple force of his example. I have been particularly impressed during the past few years, since he had seemed to be failing quite rapidly, at the clearness and force with which he has continued to write, especially in his recollections of occurrences connected with the early history of Fort Dodge and Northwestern Iowa. His pen never seemed to lose its vigor or power of correct expression.

A great many people in Northwestern Iowa will remember him with peculiar gratitude. I doubt whether there is another man in Iowa who has taken more immigrants by the hand and directed them without fee or reward, to lands or neighborhoods where they could find for themselves a home. He was particularly loyal to his town and its immediate locality. No trouble was too great for him to take, if it would pro-

mote the interests of this section of the State, or add to the prestige or fair fame of Fort Dodge. He, of course, had his faults—and who has not?—but when you balance them with his good qualities, they are lost to view of all who knew him. At a ripe old age he has gone to the great hereafter. May he sleep peacefully, remembered by the good people with whom he lived and all the citizens of the lovely town of which he was the founder, and to whose interests so many years of his life were devoted.”

Signed: C. C. CARPENTER.

Governor's Office,  
Des Moines, Iowa.







How  
We Celebrated  
the  
100th Anniversary  
of  
The Founding  
of  
Fort Dodge

On Wednesday, August 23rd, 1950, Fort Dodge celebrated its 100th anniversary.

#### THE OLD SETTLERS' PICNIC

In the morning at Oleson Park, there was an Old Settlers' picnic arranged by Archie Manchester and Bob Reed and held under the auspices of the Webster County Historical Society. Many distinguished visitors attended the picnic and among them Admiral Chester W. Nimitz and Governor William S. Beardsley. Both of these men spoke briefly from the bandstand.

At noon, the Lions Club entertained all of the distinguished visitors at its regular noon luncheon at the Wahkonsa Hotel and Governor Beardsley spoke.

#### THE PARADE

In the afternoon the giant parade began to assemble at one o'clock. And at that same hour all of the stores in town closed for the day. In charge of the parade as Marshall of the Day and his assistant were Ralph Bastian, Lieutenant Commander in the Navy during World War Two and Dr. Roger Minkel, Lieutenant Colonel in World War Two. M. E. Edwards was in charge of the mounted marshalls and Richard Sherman in charge of all horses, riders and horse-drawn vehicles.

The parade started promptly at 2:30 with Admiral Nimitz, Governor Beardsley, Ralph Bastian in the

first car, James Tucker driving. In the second car were Mayor Anderson, Paul McCarville, Francis Tierney, and James A. Eldridge, aide to Admiral Nimitz.

The Fort Dodge Municipal Band and the guard companies followed. Then came the great welcome float for the Chamber of Commerce. Immediately behind it the Duncombe carriage driven by Peter Russell and riding in it was Judith Atwell, the great, great granddaughter of Major William Williams, founder of the town.

Then the old settlers, the beautiful floats, the magnificent riding groups and the quaint old carriages with bands sprinkled all through the parade, ancient cars belonging to Herb and Bob Horn and Dr. Schwendemann and Elmer Hall; floats from Barnum, Clare, Palmer, Gowrie, Dayton, Harcourt, Somers, Burnside, Duncombe, Lehigh, Spencer, Rolfe, Webster City and Humboldt. Many of these towns had closed from noon on. People were here from everywhere. George Mills of the Des Moines Register in his front page story on the parade said at least 40,000. Ed Breen said "Everyone is here but the Cardiff Giant." People said it was the largest crowd Fort Dodge had ever seen. It was a warm, sunny, beautiful day in what had been a cold summer. Everyone was in a gala mood.

It took the parade an hour and a quarter to pass one spot. It went from the corner of 1st Avenue South and 12th Street, north to Central Avenue and then turned west and down Central Avenue around the City Square and back to 4th street, then south to 1st Avenue South and east on 1st Avenue South and past the reviewing stand in front of the City Hall.

On the reviewing stand were Admiral Nimitz, Governor Beardsley, Judge John E. Mulroney of the State Supreme Court, Ralph Bastian, Marshall of the Day; Francis Tierney, State Representative; Lester Gillette of Fostoria, democratic candidate for governor; Elmo McCormick, police judge; Maurice O'Reilly, candidate for Congressman on the democratic ticket; Mayor Henry Anderson, Byron Wilder and Lee Shannon, city commissioners; Francis O'Connell, John Brown, Harold Schill, Mrs. Frank Griffith, Mrs. E. M. Kersten, Mrs. Mack Bruce, judges of the floats and riding groups; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Day and daughter, Norma, of Humboldt; Art Crawford, republican candidate for the state legislature; William Nicholas, candidate for Lieutenant Governor on the republican ticket; Mrs. Walter Berg, Dr. and Mrs. Emerson B. Dawson, Richard Mitchell, Mrs. Edward Breen, Senator Paul McCarville, Donald Mitchell, Ivar Christoffersen of Cedar Falls, candidate for Lt. Governor on the democratic ticket and other out of town dignitaries.

## THE OLD TIMERS BALL GAME

The sports fans were not forgotten—immediately after the parade an old time ball game was played at Dodger Stadium, the old timers of Fort Dodge playing the old timers of Webster County. William Johnston captained the Fort Dodge team and Tom Timmons of Lehigh the Webster County old timers. Among those in the line-ups were Bobby Umsted, Lefty Eck, Ed Cepperly, Jay Longstaff, Marty Schroeder, George Fox, Rusty Whipple, Walt Schuh, Vernon Johnston, Doc Thomas, John Hanrahan, Kiley Powers, Art Vinson, Scoop Larkin, Pete Cepperly, Cam Larkin, Jake Cepperly, Ray Nordstrom, Tom Webb and many, many others. The bleachers were filled by 4:30 and many fans were seated along the sidelines. The game ended in the first half of the seventh inning when it got too dark to play and nobody went home mad. The final score was 8 for the Fort Dodgers and 8 for the Webster County men.

The Fort Dodgers used three pitchers—Pete Cepperly, Marty Schroeder and Connie Beisser. The Webster County team pitchers were Lawrence Dutcher, Aaron Eck and Doc Witcraft.

## AFTER THE PARADE

After the parade, Admiral Nimitz went to visit his old friends, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wheeler. Earlier in the day at his suite in the Warden Hotel, the Admiral had

visited with Norma Day of Humboldt and with her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Day, and with her brothers, Roger and Keith, and her sister, Joyce. Norma had written to the Admiral during the war and when it was arranged for him to come to Fort Dodge, he especially requested that Norma and her family be invited to share in the day's activities.

At 6:30 the Governor, the Admiral and the official party from the reviewing stand, some 65 or 70 people, were entertained at a barbecue by Dr. and Mrs. Emerson B. Dawson at the Dawson and Breen cabins about three miles north of town on the east bank of the Des Moines river. The dinner was served by members of the Navy Mothers Club.

#### THE EVENING CELEBRATION

The evening celebration at Dodger Stadium began at 7:00 with a concert by the band, and the judging of the Whisker contest. A bunch of fellows at Tobin Packing Company had started the club with Roy Reynolds as president. Soon there were over 200 members all growing beards. Mrs. Carl Dillman went to the merchants of the town and arranged for a lot of prizes and later headed the committee that judged the beards. On her committee were Mrs. Henry Anderson, Mrs. O. B. Lundgren and Mrs. Walter Berg.

When we reached the Stadium the permanent stands were filled, the temporary bleachers were filled and



people were sitting all over the football field. John Decker, in charge of parking, said it was the largest crowd ever to fill the Dodger Stadium. He estimated it at well over 20,000. Joe Dixon, the highway patrol officer who had been the Admiral's escort all day, said it was the largest crowd he had ever seen there.

### THE BEARDS' CONTEST

The beards' contest ended with these winners being named: Jack Kearns, the best beard; R. F. Hoyer, the most distinguished beard; Don Chapman, the reddest beard; Bruce Kammarmeyer, just 17, the youngest beard; Elmer Totten, the shortest beard; Glen Peterson, the whitest beard; Verl Thompson, the roughest looking beard; Frank Magepike, the Swede with the best beard; F. J. Halligan, the blackest beard; Elmond Brown, the shaggiest beard; Wayne Fiala, the poorest beard and Marvin Griffin the beard hardest to see.

The band played under the direction of Walt Englebart, Karl King being in the hospital.

### NIMITZ SPEAKS

All of the candidates for public office were introduced by Ed Breen in his role as master of ceremonies. Governor Beardsley spoke briefly as did Lester Gillette, democratic candidate for Governor. Then Admiral Nimitz spoke. He made a fine speech, a speech with a lot of substance, a serious speech, one that everyone should hear. It was about the United Na-

tions and pointed out the many signal accomplishments of that body. He spoke too of the Korean War. Of course, we broadcast his speech over KVFD.

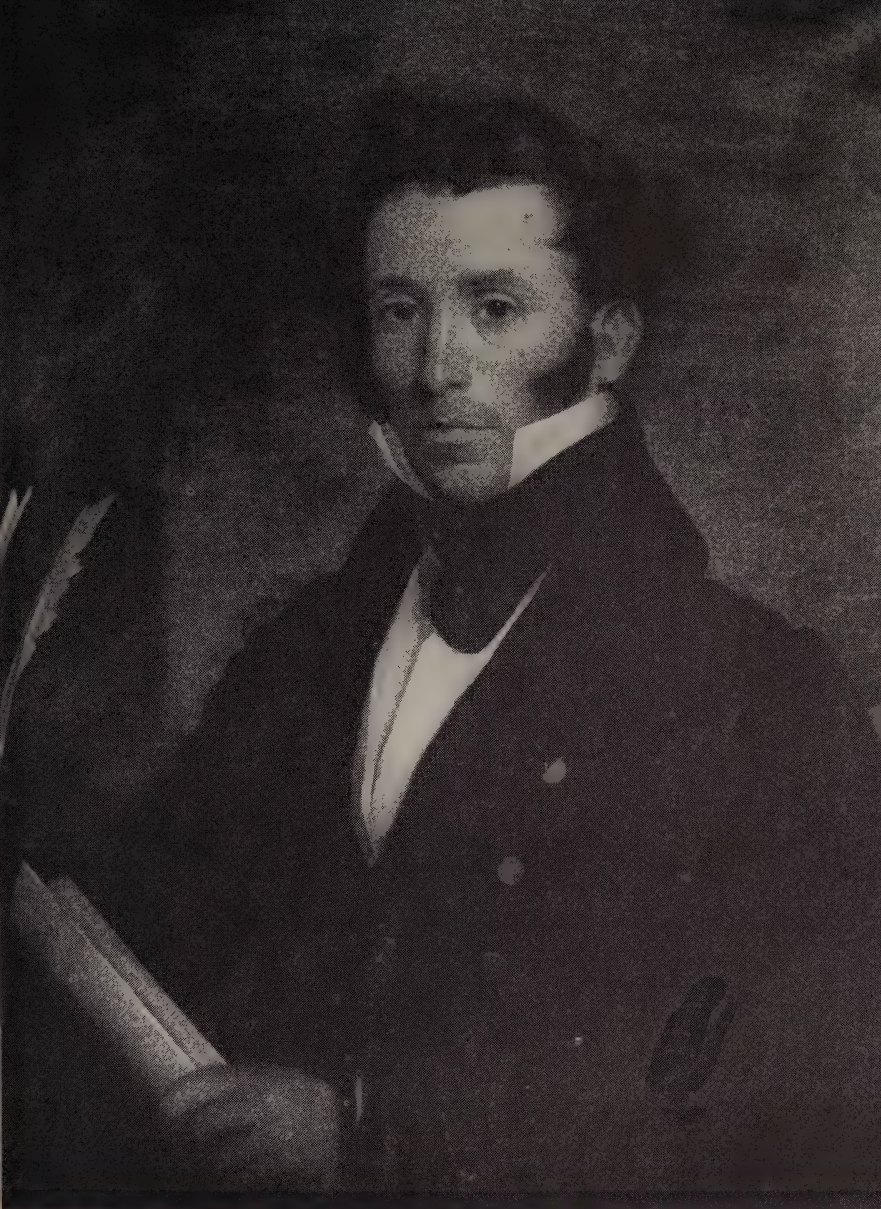
Then the Webster County Rural Chorus sang, the entire chorus dressed in costumes of 100 years ago. They sang under the direction of Mrs. Walter DeWinter, accompanied by Mrs. Clarence McCarville.

#### SQUARE DANCERS

Next the program featured five groups of square dancers, the Lads and Lassies under the leadership of Mrs. Paul Zaabel with Floyd Dingman calling, the Mavericks arranged for by Harold Ertle with Sterling Ainsworth as the caller and with music by Adolph Licht's Square Dance Band. Then there were the dancers from Renwick with Floyd Dingman calling. Paul Roderick arranged for the Boat Club Square Dancers, and the Square Dance set from the Catholic Daughters of America was presented by Mr. Leo Rodenborn.

#### THE FASHION PARADE

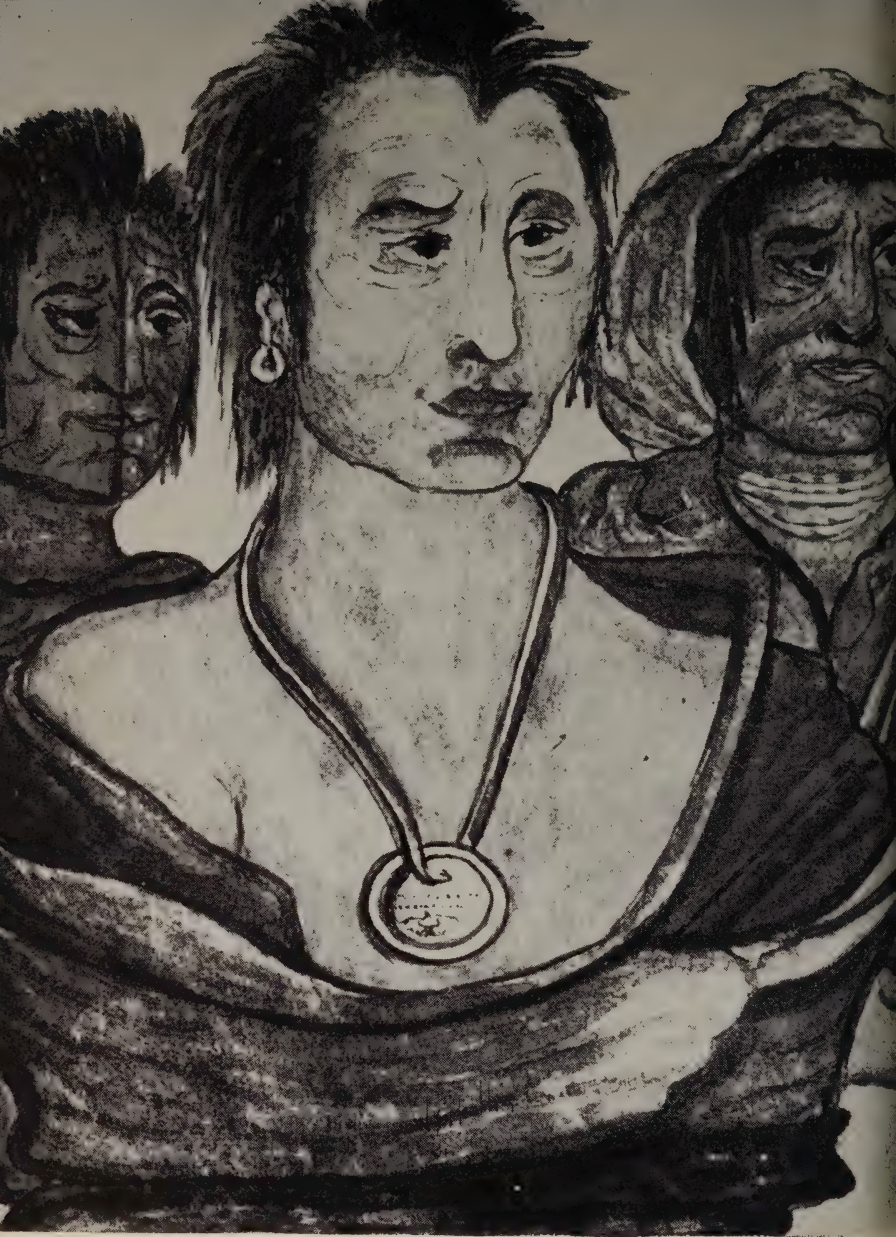
Throughout the entertainment, Wally Engelhardt of KVFD-KFMY acted as master of ceremonies and the entire program from 7:00 on was broadcast. After the square dancing the program called for "The Parade of Fashion," which had been arranged under the direction of Mrs. J. Frank Wray. The lights were dimmed so that the first group in the "Parade of Fashion" might take the stage. The men waiting to



Major William Williams as he looked when he was a banker back in Pennsylvania.

Courtesy Mrs. John Atwell





Sioux Indians 1848. This is the way they looked to Major William Williams as he posed for him on the bank of the St. Peter River in Minnesota. From Major Williams' Sketch Book.

Courtesy Mrs. John A. Williams



Wm. S. Beardsley (left) and George Habenicht at old settlers' picnic at Oleson Park.  
Photo Courtesy Des Moines Register





Upper—Old Settlers' Picnic—Oleson Park. Left to right—Fred Barth, Mrs. Char DeLano, Mrs. L. L. Leighton, Mrs. J. F. Nelson, Mrs. Fred Brown.  
Lower—Old Settler's Picnic—Oleson Park. Photos Courtesy Des Moines F





does a little fixing on Pa's ancient coat. Mr. and Mrs. Emory Smith of Fort Dodge. They came here in 1897 and 1876 respectively. Old Settlers' picnic.

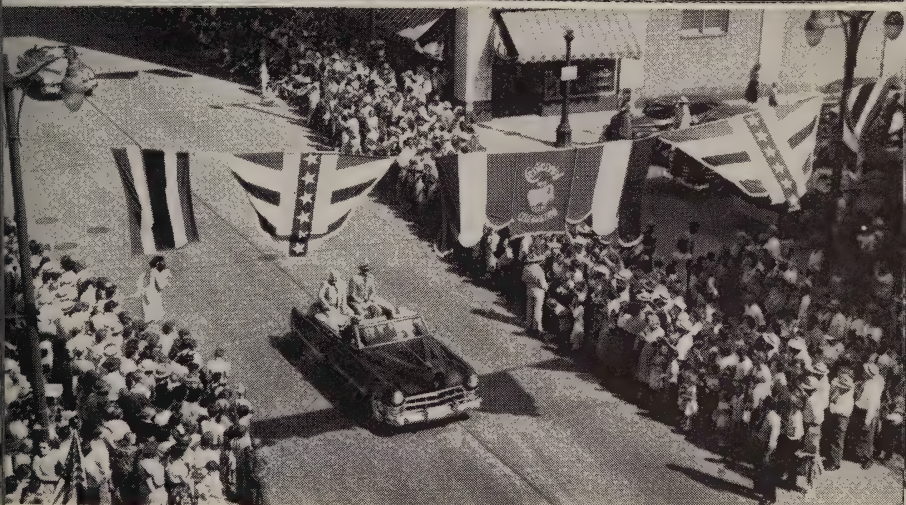
Photo Courtesy Des Moines Register



Mrs. Chas. M. DeLano and Miss Maude Lauderdale bring their lunch and their turn-of-19th-century dresses to the old settler's picnic.

Photo Courtesy Des Moines F





Upper—Reviewing Stand—left to right—Art Crawford, Lee Shannon, Judge John Mulaney, Mayor Henry Anderson, Ralph Bastian, Gov. Wm. S. Beardsley, Admiral Nimitz, James Eldridge, Francis Tierney, Francis O'Connell.

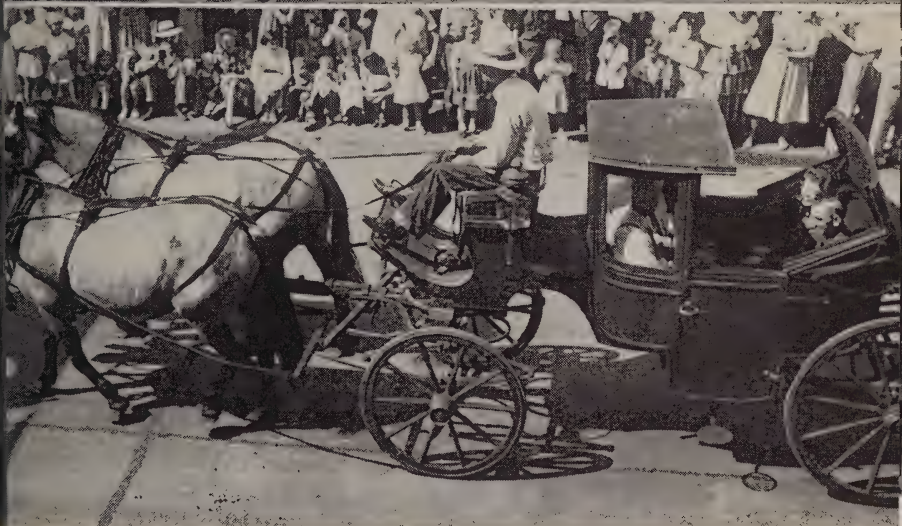
Lower—Governor Beardsley, Admiral Nimitz lead the parade.

Photos Courtesy James Buckroyd



Upper—Gerald Baker and daughter Sandy in the Horn Bros. 1901 Oldsmobile.  
 Lower—Waiting for the parade. Central Avenue between 7th and 8th Streets.  
 Photos Courtesy Des Moines Reg





Upper—Peter Russell and Judith Atwell in old John F. Duncombe carriage. Judy is the great-great-granddaughter of Major Williams.

Lower—Old Grant carriage with John Hefley, Mary Ellen Hefley, Wm. Hefley and John M. Hefley, Jr. Photos Courtesy Des Moines Register



Upper—M. E. McHenry walking and Mrs. Olive Schuster on donkey.  
 Lower—The Barber Shop Quartette: Ed Snyder, Howard Abens, Roger Davenport,  
 Hay; shoe shine boy, Billy Abens. Photos Courtesy Des Moines Re





Upper—Hannon Florist float—Ellen Dutcher, KVFD June bride, Johnny Anderson, Barbara Tierney, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Griffith.  
 Lower—Fort Dodge Cosmetologists float with Mrs. Geo. Schnurr, Sr. Mary Frances Jotek and Sandra Heun, standing; sitting, Betty Summerville, Imogene Saucke and Donna Olson.

Photos Courtesy Bergeman



Upper—Mr. and Mrs. Don Simmons driving ancient car belonging to Herb and Bob  
Photo Courtesy James B

Lower—Ancient Brady Transfer dray with H. B. Ackerson and Frank Fibiger.  
Photo Courtesy B





Upper—Wa-Tan-Ye float—Marg. Peterson, Mildred Houck, Ellen Jenison, Sarah Thompson, Frances Rist, Evelyn Deck, Florence Kane, Elsa Will. Photo Courtesy Bergeman Tower—Edna Niemann and Hazel Birkett as Sioux Chieftans.

Photo Courtesy James Buckroyd



Upper—Fort Dodge Creamery float with Mary Ann Stephen, Ann Cavanaugh and Ma Lou Patterson.

Lower—Square Dance Band—Adolph Licht, Lawrence Keninast, Dick Trost, Mrs. Dick Trost, Florence Borchardt, Otto Borchardt. Photos Courtesy Bergeson





Upper—State Bank float with Keith Jameson and Edmond Latham.

Lower—Part of the "beards" who rode in the parade. Photos Courtesy Bergeman





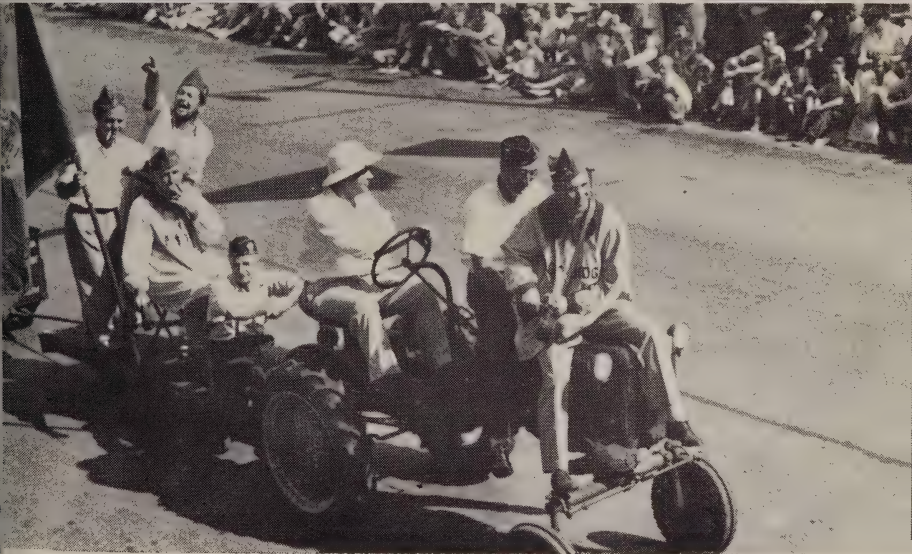
Upper—Mr. and Mrs. John Savage in their two seated cutter.

Photo Courtesy Don F

Lower—The Anheuser Busch 8-horse hitch.

Photo Courtesy Be





—P. H. W. Local 31. Eugene Maguire, Russell Garrett, Wayne Kanan, Phylis Rice, Andy  
son, Delvis Bruce, Keith Enquist, Ardo Thompson, Etta Fett, Roy Reynolds, Joyce Carrier.  
Lower—American Legion. Lowell Johnston, Robert Conway, Fred Watkins, Geo. Scheidel,  
Clyde Palmer, Arthur Cote. Photos Courtesy Bergeman





William Hefley, 93, son of John Hefley, one of the original soldiers at Fort Dodge  
Photo Courtesy Des Moines



They are real. Ed Breen (c) centennial chairman tests beards with Minus Abrahamson, and Chas. Kramer, 40. Minus and Charles grew their beards for an earlier party Palmer, but being good neighbors brought them to Fort Dodge for a second showing. Photo Courtesy Des Moines Register





Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz and his pen pal, Norma Day of Humboldt.

Photo Courtesy Des Moines Reg



shoot off the fireworks took this to be their signal and at once the sky was lit with rockets and star shells and the set pieces, to the delight of the youngsters who had been waiting for them all evening. Once the fireworks started there was no stopping them. It was wonderful. When the great display was over the "Parade of Fashions" went on. Some three hundred people dressed by decades in authentic costumes that started with 1850 and came on down, hoop skirts and beaver hats, bustles and parasols, hobble skirts and peg top trousers, down to the slacks, the sport shirts and diving neck lines of 1950. It was a great and fitting finale to a memorable day.

The next morning Admiral Nimitz left by plane for Des Moines to be back in New York City for a television show at 2:00 p. m.

That, in brief, is the story of what we did to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Fort Dodge. But into it went the work of thousands of people.

The first meeting we had for planning the celebration was held in the offices of KVFD-KFMY on July 17th. Those I met with were Maude Lauderdale, Lynn Anderson and other members of the board of directors of the Webster County Historical Society. In that first meeting we discussed most of the things that subsequently became part of the celebration.

## PLANES OVER FORT DODGE

And here I should make note of many other things that were done. Paul Roderick and Stanley Manchester invited all the fliers from around the state to fly in here the afternoon of the parade. Some thirty-five came and flew their planes over the parade and afterwards attended the watermelon feed that Stan had provided.

The Chamber of Commerce decorated Central Avenue from one end to the other. Mayor Anderson issued a proclamation declaring the day a holiday. Letters were sent by Karl King to all the bands in the area inviting them to come to the celebration and take part in the parade. Judge Dwight G. Rider, president of the Chamber of Commerce, invited all the Chamber officials from the surrounding towns to take part in the celebration and Mayor Henry Anderson invited all the city officials in some seventy towns to be with us.

Many of the store fronts were decorated. All of the historic spots in town, early schools, churches, public buildings, the site of the fort and the original government buildings were marked by the city engineering department under the direction of C. A. Boeke, city engineer. Chief of Police, Walter Berg, had the signs put up.

## STORE WINDOWS DECORATED

The store windows themselves became museums of old and quaint and cherished historic things. Maude Lauderdale, curator of the Webster County Historical Museum, made hundreds of things from the museum available for display. She worked tirelessly getting things out to the merchants. We asked over the air on KVFD-KFMY for people to bring in their antiques. Three hundred and twenty-two responded, bringing some fifteen hundred articles direct to the station. Hand made chairs, deeds signed by early presidents, an 1873 Winchester rifle, a broad axe, an old rose-wood melodeon, a fire bucket, a belt taken from one of Custer's men, a map of Iowa dated 1850, a Bible 300 years old, a bedspread from Norway over 100 years old, the old hands of the town clock, a squirrel rifle from Kentucky, Major Williams' sword and epaulets, Indian arrow heads, a buffalo robe from a buffalo shot near Fort Dodge in 1852, a spinning wheel 120 years old, a mustache cup, a violin made in Germany in 1706, a music box 100 years old, a black walnut cradle, a yarn winder, bag pipes from Ireland over 100 years old, a portrait of Judith McConnell Williams, first wife of Major Williams, an ox shoe, candlesticks and candle molds, a muzzle loading shotgun, the original ball and chain used on prisoners at Lehigh, silver stirrups, silver spurs and a silver double bit, 1899 bathing suit and so on and on and on.

These and thousands of other things made such window displays as we had never seen before. Crowds of people lined Central Avenue, evening after evening, through all of the Centennial week, gathered in groups three and four deep around the fascinating treasures from the past that they found in the windows. Fort Dodge was reliving its first hundred years, thrilled and revitalized, eagerly facing the future with a confidence and courage born of a more intimate knowledge of the brave men and women whose heirs and spiritual inheritors we are.

#### THE NO-HOSTESS LUNCHEON AND DINNER

On Monday of Centennial week, Doris Wood and Lynn Anderson proposed a no-hostess luncheon at the Wahkonsa and Warden Hotels, with everyone invited to attend wearing the clothes of yester-year. Everyone liked the idea. We publicized it over KVFD-KFMY and both noon and evening the height of fashion of yesterday was seen again on the sidewalks of Fort Dodge. Among those who took part were Mrs. H. W. Stowe, Miss Martina Larson, Mrs. C. M. DeLano, Mrs. M. A. Medd, Mrs. Ralph Bastain, the Misses Edith and Elsie Laufersweiller, the Misses Clara and Olive Arthur, the Misses Florence and Marie Wright, Mrs. Frank Griffith, Miss Lynn Anderson, Miss Maude Lauderdale, Miss Iva Fisher, Mrs. Robert Rankin, Mrs. Adolph Weiss, Mrs. Walter Jones, Mrs.

Roy Hannon, Mrs. J. Frank Wray, Mrs. Stanford Griffith, Mrs. John DeGroff, Mrs. Floyd Quick, Mrs. Ruth Reinman, Miss Mildred Houck, Mrs. Doris Olson Wood, Miss Beverly Carlson, Miss Berneice Nash, Miss Ruth McTigue, Mrs. Robert Cooper, and many, many others. Leaving the luncheon at noon and the dinner in the evening, these ladies celebrating the Centennial in grandma's gowns went up and down Central Avenue in and out of stores visiting with everyone. The dresses and gowns, some a hundred years old, the picture hats with their lavender plumes, the black silk, the parasols, the bombazines and old lace were as attractive as anything fresh from Hollywood or Paris. The ladies had fun and so had all of the throngs of people who saw and visited with them.

### PICTURES SNAPPED

During the parade hundreds of photographers, amateur and professional, had a field day. Emil Goodrich and Harold Smith took the entire parade in colored movies. Harold Bergeman, Andy Hoover, and Jim Buckroyd took magnificent pictures of everything in color and in black and white. George Mills and his photographers from the Des Moines Register took pictures of everything from the ground and from the Register's plane. Every place in town selling film was sold out long before the parade started. It was a perfect day for photography and hundreds of ama-



teurs took advantage of it. Photographs were everywhere. Many of them were on display for weeks afterwards in down town windows. The Des Moines Register's pictures appeared in several issues of the Register and also of the Des Moines Tribune and finally on two pages of the Register's Sunday Magazine Section. The Messenger ran several pictures on Thursday, August 24th.

#### BROADCASTS BY KVFD

The parade itself, was broadcast in its entirety by Johnny Green and Bob Waggoner of the staff of KVFD-KFMY. That was one of the many broadcasts done by KVFD-KFMY for the Centennial. Major William Williams' early history of Fort Dodge and Webster County was broadcast by Ed Breen in quarter hour periods daily from July 31st to October 23rd at 7:30 p. m. These broadcasts were sponsored by the Fort Dodge Laboratories and had been arranged for by Scott Barrett, president of that company. Wally Engelhardt and Johnny Green during Centennial week interviewed 46 of the leading citizens of this community as they related their own experiences in, and recollections of Fort Dodge. The men interviewed were: Scott Barrett of Fort Dodge Laboratories; A. A. Anderson of Jones Piano; Carl Ripper of North Lawn Cemetery; Fred Clark, Tobin Packing Company; Ron Wiewel, Wiewel Drug; Martin

Caccioppo of Consumer's U Save; Oscar Lundgren and Pete Garatoni of the Union Trust and Savings Bank; Don Tierney of Tierney Cafe; Frank Mueller of Thiede-Mueller Hardware; Don Halsey of Maid-Rite Cafe; Bob Courtwright of Self Service Laundry; Francis O'Connell of O'Connell Bros. Drug Store; Frank McTigue of Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company; Harold Burch of Home Furniture Company; B. C. (Sonny) Howard, the Stag; Don Wright, Ed, Fred and George Shimkat of Shimkat Motor Car Company; Gus Martin of M & S Sales Company; Harry Huff of the State Bank; Emil Bock of Bock Bros. Welding Company; Wally Rogers of Carter-Rogers Insurance Company; W. B. Swaney of Swaney Motor Car Company; John Brown of Brown Grocery; David Lurie of Model Clothing Company; Walt Beier of Collins-Beier Paint Company; G. E. Coats of Coats Loaders and Stackers; Otto Essinger of Essinger East Side Electric Company; Frank Gordon of the Fort Dodge Telephone; Leonard Pint of Fort Dodge Paint & Wallpaper; Paul Burch of the Fort Dodge Tent and Awning Company; Jim Dickerson of Gralnek Motors; Jake Hughlin of Hawkeye Motor Company; Stan Manchester of the Iowa Flight Service; Cecil Ewen of Iowa-Illinois Gas & Electric Company; Joe Kautzky of Kautzky Sporting Goods Store; Carl Anderson of Leighton Supply Company; Welch Laufersweiler of Laufersweiler Funeral Home;

Bill Ramsell of Motor Club of Iowa; Floyd Rankin of Rankin Motor Car Company; Sam Rabiner of Rabiner Central Flour and Feed Company; Hugo Rossow of Rossow Implement Company; Harold Schill of Schill Shoe Company; John Coolidge of Younkers, Inc.; Mrs. Ned Young of Young Funeral Home.

Drexel Peterson interviewed many old settlers who remembered clear back to Indian days. Every one of the four principal newscasts on KVFD-KFMY carried the growing and unfolding story of the Centennial for weeks before the great day came.

#### SPEAKERS COMMITTEE

Senator Paul McCarville and Donald Mitchell were co-chairmen of the committee that invited the Governor and other distinguished guests from around the state. Joe Wheeler, Jr., of Sands Point, Long Island, New York, former Fort Dodge and son of Joe Wheeler, was responsible for securing Admiral Chester W. Nimitz for us as our speaker of the evening. Joe called me one day from Lake Success, United Nations headquarters, New York, and said "Admiral Nimitz is making a trip west to speak at San Francisco and at Denver in behalf of United Nations. The Admiral is my friend and next door neighbor. He would like to speak in the middle west and I urged him to make it Fort Dodge. I said I'd call you and I knew you could make suitable arrangements." It was just happen-

stance that one of the dates on which he could be here coincided with our Centennial—and so to our good and great fortune it was arranged.

#### FLOATS AND RIDERS

The judges of the parade selected the following floats and entries in the parade as being outstanding: the Horn float and the 17 ancient cars belonging to Herb and Bob Horn; Treloar's steam engine and float; the State Bank float; Becker Florists; The Fort Dodge Telephone Company; Tony's gondola; the Fort Dodge National Bank float; the Fort Dodge Saddle Club; the Harcourt mail wagon; the Northwest Iowa Fox Hunters; the Fort Dodge Real Estate Board; Firestone Store; the Brady Transfer's several floats; Rotary Club; Wa Tan Ye; Kiwanis; Corpus Christi; the Packing House Workers Local; the Fort Dodge Boat Club; the Salvation Army; the American Legion; the V. F. W.'s; Hannon's Florists; the Barnum Covered Wagon; the Clare Shamrock; Somers; the Palmer floats; Rosedale; the Ministerial Association; the Lions Club; the Webster County Medical; the Adolph Licht float; the City Recreation floats, and the Y. M. C. A. But the judges said all of the floats were wonderful.

The awards in the riding group went to the Dayton Wranglers of Dayton for having the largest group of riders in the parade, and the Hamilton County Riders

were awarded second prize in this class. The Hamilton County Saddle Club was adjudged the most colorful and the Humboldt Saddle Club was second. The awards in these classes were \$30.00 for first prize and \$20.00 for second prize. In all there were 323 horses in the parade.

### WINDOWS TO REMEMBER

The Centennial windows along Central Avenue and along the other business streets stayed in through Saturday, admired by all who saw them. I think that no one will ever quite forget them, the windows of Thiede-Mueller's, Kautzky's, Schills, Gambles, Sears-Roebuck, Gates, Oleson Drug, Walrod's, Fantle's, O'Connell's, Bickford-Johnson, Fort Dodge Paint and Wallpaper, Bergeman's Photos, Don Peterson's, Collins-Beier, Younkers, the Coast to Coast Store, the Model, Chas. A. Brown's, Peterson's, Welch's Shoe Store, Colonial Shop, Lilyans, the Hollywood Shop, the Home Furniture Store, and many, many others.

It was the community effort of thousands in towns, on farms and in villages and in Fort Dodge that made our Centennial the friendly, gracious, gay and spontaneous thing that it was. It started as simply as saying "Come on over, we're giving a party, everyone is invited." And that's the way it was. Everyone came—everyone pitched in and did his bit. I couldn't possibly name all those who did yeoman service, who



served on the autonomous committees that grew up like Topsy.

#### MORE WORKERS

Here are some I remember whom perhaps I have not named in this resume. Judge John Mulroney, Herb Bennett and Sam McClure served on a committee to contact the various patriotic organizations of the town to enlist their participation. Chris Weyen, Harold Schill and John Brown served on the floats committee and met with everyone who thought of entering a float in the parade. Henry HasBrouck organized the floats at the several playgrounds. Jack Rhea provided 50 boy scouts to help police the parade and to usher elderly people to the 200 chairs we had provided for them in front of the Court House. Ralph Bastain and Dr. Roger Minkel had a very large group of marshals to handle the parade. Jim Tucker arranged for new convertibles for all the old settlers and for the notables who rode in the parade. Some thirty of these were provided by car dealers and private owners. Emil Goodrich, M. E. McHenry, Les Treloar, Claude Van Gundy and Jim and Francis O'Connell scoured the country-side for old buggies, phaetons, surreys and for the teams to draw them. The Fort Dodge Saddle Club through its president, Dr. Martin Van Patten, appointed a committee composed of Marg and Ed Flinn, Nita and Chris Weyen to send letters to all the riding clubs in Northwest

Iowa, inviting them to take part in the parade. Jake Bram and Verla Ulish met with the 4-H Club and Farm Bureau groups and helped them with their parade entries. Bob Reed appointed the following committee to work with him in bringing into the celebration all the long time and distinguished residents of Webster county: Mrs. Velma Weaver, Dayton; Russell E. Whipple, Lehigh; Ed Bruntlett, Gowrie; Mike Flattery, Industry; Ed Nordbloom, Harcourt; Jim Fitzgerald, Duncombe; Jim Reddick, Vincent; Edgar Hovey, Badger; Carl Nash, Barnum; Dan Coleman, Clare; Gene McCarville, Moorland; Ray Allan, Callender; Paul Gustafson, Lanyon; Mrs. Robert Jordison, Coalville; Andy Phillips, Kalo; O. C. Hanson, Otho; Mrs. Verna Welch, Brushy; and Mrs. Oscar Lundgren, Burnside.

Mrs. J. Frank Wray's committee for the Parade of Fashion included Mrs. John Atwell, Mrs. Ralph Bastian, Mrs. Doris Olson Wood, Miss Beverly Carlson, Mrs. Roy Fox, Mrs. Wilmer Stowe, Miss Lynn Anderson, Mrs. Adolph Weiss, Mrs. Robert Rankin and many others.

#### HOW WE PAID FOR IT

The celebration started without funds but with the assurance that K5FD-KFMY would underwrite any deficit. Along the way we found friends and picked up funds. The Chamber of Commerce paid

for the street decorations. Many of the floats cost several hundred dollars apiece. They were beautiful. I can make no accounting for those many individual expenditures and expenses. But here is a list of the organizations and individuals who donated to the general fund and following it is an accounting of how we spent those monies. I sent a letter to all the service, patriotic and social clubs of Fort Dodge, suggesting a donation of not more than \$25.00. No other solicitation was made. The individuals who gave were all strictly volunteers:

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TO CENTENNIAL FUND, 1950

Rotary Club .....	\$ 25.00
Webster County Farm Bureau .....	25.00
Epsilon Sigma Alpha .....	5.00
Business and Professional Women's Club .....	25.00
Carpenter's Union .....	25.00
Ind. Order of Odd Fellows No. 229 .....	25.00
Fort Dodge Women's Club .....	12.50
Masonic Temple Association .....	25.00
Theater Operators and Stagehands No. 389 .....	10.00
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary .....	10.00
Wa Tan Ye Club .....	25.00
Webster County Medical Society .....	25.00
Women's Relief Corp. No. 20 .....	25.00
Y. W. C. A. ....	10.00
Fort Dodge Lions Club .....	25.00

United Commercial Travelers .....	25.00
Millmen's Local No. 1931 .....	25.00
United States Army Mothers .....	5.00
American Legion Auxiliary .....	10.00
Boy Scouts of America .....	25.00
Hawkeye Awning & Venetian Blind Co. ....	5.00
Highland Elks .....	12.50
I. O. O. F. Rebekah Lodge No. 280 .....	10.00
Journeymen Barber Local No. 504 .....	15.00
Kiwanis Club .....	25.00
Maccabees No. 132 .....	5.00
Navy Mothers No. 60 .....	5.00
O'Connell Bros. ....	50.00
Real Estate Board of Fort Dodge .....	25.00
National Secretaries Association .....	5.00
Sons of Union Veterans .....	5.00
Sons of Union Veterans Auxiliary .....	5.00
United Cement, Lime & Gypsum Workers ...	25.00
United Commercial Travelers Aux. ....	10.00
United Packing House Workers .....	25.00
United Spanish War Vet. Aux. No. 21 ....	10.00
Pop's Lunch .....	10.00
Catholic Daughters of America .....	25.00
Chamber of Commerce .....	25.00
Disabled American Veterans .....	20.00
Knights of Columbus No. 613 .....	25.00
Italian Mutual Society Auxiliary .....	25.00
Jeffries Grocery .....	25.00

Newcomers Club .....	5.00
F. B. McTigue .....	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. Fuhrmeister .....	20.00
Mr. and Mrs. Les Treloar .....	25.00
Junior Chamber of Commerce .....	144.83
(25 per cent of profit on sale of food at evening show)	
Exchange Club .....	15.00

Total	\$994.83
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(Schedule I)

# FINAL REPORT ON CENTENNIAL FUND

October 18, 1950

Income:	\$994.83
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## Contributions on Schedule I

## Expenses:

### Parade Expense:

Gowrie Drum and Bugle Corp .....	\$100.00
Riding Group Prizes .....	100.00
John Decker, parking cars .....	50.00
Burnside Band .....	20.00
Manson Band .....	20.00
Lowell Trafford .....	20.00
Meal Tickets .....	78.00
Trip to Polk City .....	10.00
Misc. parade expense .....	4.70

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\$ 402.70



## Program Expense:

Adolph Licht Band .....	20.00
Fidelity Fireworks .....	510.00
Fullerton Lumber Co. ....	94.50
Kautzky's .....	25.70
Fort Dodge Lumber Co. ....	5.06
Woodman Electric .....	18.00
Joselyn Press .....	17.13
Zakeer Auto & Home Supply .....	20.35
Misc. program expense .....	7.50

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\$ 718.24

## Misc. Expense:

Dinner for Fleet Admiral Nimitz and dignitaries .....	86.14
Telephone calls and line .....	13.39
Stamps .....	7.50
Telegrams .....	.93

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\$ 107.96

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Total Expense .....\$1,228.90

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Difference made up by KVFD-KFMY 234.07

Just before the parade, Irv Diamond gave 2000 balloons to the youngsters who thronged the streets.

The Hannon float strewed the street with roses and Tony's gondola tossed out candy kisses.

#### PROGRAM AT PARADE

Here is a copy of one of the programs of the great parade. Five thousand of these were printed through the courtesy of the Walterick Printing Company and passed out to the crowds by the Boy Scouts. The program contained most but not all of the parade entries, because many floats and carriages came in after the program had gone to the printer.

#### PARADE PROGRAM

1. Official Car—Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Gov. Wm. S. Beardsley; Ralph Bastian, Marshal of the Day.
2. Official Car—Mayor Henry G. Anderson, Sen. Paul McCarville, Rep. Francis Tierney, James A. Eldridge, Aide to the Admiral.
3. Karl King's Band.
4. Colors and Escorts. Marching group—American Legion. Women's Auxiliary of V. F. W. V. F. W. from Humboldt, Iowa. United Spanish War Veterans Colors. Italian Mutual Society.
5. Company G.
6. National Guard Colors.
7. Headquarters—109 Medical.
8. Chamber of Commerce, Fort Dodge.

9. Duncombe Carriage—Judith Atwell, Peter Russell.
10. Grant Carriage, Rolfe, Iowa, Mary Ellen Hefley, Wm. Hefley, John Hefley and John Hefley Jr.
11. A. W. Scheideman and Mrs. Chas Dushek. Two cars—W. R. C.
12. Rockwell City Band.
13. Old Settlers cars.
14. Herb Dick Barber Shop.
15. Kiwanis Float.
16. Boy Scout's Float.
17. Lehigh Float.
18. Fort Dodge Tent and Awning.
19. Horn Manufacturing Company Float.
20. Fort Dodge Recreation Department.
21. Fort Dodge Recreation Department.
22. Y. M. C. A.
24. Budweiser Beer Team.
25. Hannon Florists Float.
26. Northwest Iowa Fox Hunters.
27. Carpenter's Union.
28. Saddle Club.
30. Lion's Club Float.
31. Tony's Finer Foods.
32. Jimmy Constantine's Float.
33. Sports Park.
34. Sports Park.
35. Sports Park.

36. Methodist Church.
37. Friendship Haven.
39. Gowrie Drum & Bugle Corps.
40. Manchester—airplane.
41. Palmer Float.
42. Palmer Float.
43. Clare Float.
44. Kautzky's Sporting Goods Store.
45. Wa Tan Ye Club Float.
46. Johnston Clay Works.
47. American Legion & 40 & 8.
48. United Commercial Travelers of America.
49. Fort Dodge National Bank.
50. Old Car group—Horn Cars and Dr. Roy Schwendemann's.
51. Manson Band.
52. Veterans of Foreign Wars.
53. Veterans of Foreign Wars.
54. Maid Rite Cafe Float.
55. McDonald Feed Float.
56. Armstrong Plumbing & Heating.
57. State Bank.
58. Beta Sigma Phi Sorority.
59. Riverside Methodist Church.
60. Dayton Chamber of Commerce Float.
61. Farm Bureau—Lost Grove.
62. Frantz Motor Court.
63. Professional Hair Dressers.

64. Fort Dodge Real Estate Board.
65. Webster County Medical Society.
66. United Packinghouse Workers.
67. Northwest Iowa Boat Club.
68. Northwest Iowa Boat Club.
69. Northwest Iowa Boat Club.
70. Northwest Iowa Boat Club.
71. Fulton Farm Bureau.
72. Rossow Implement Company.
73. Burnside Band.
74. American Legion Auxiliary—Fort Dodge.
75. Central States Theatres.
76. Rotary Club.
77. Harcourt, Iowa, Float.
78. Rio Grande Fruit Market.
79. Navy Float.
80. Disabled American Veterans.
81. Becker Florists.
82. Red Cross Float.
83. Treloar's Inn Float.
84. Farm Bureau—Douglas Township.
85. Badger, Iowa, Float.
86. Union Trust & Savings Bank.
87. Fort Dodge Appliance.
88. Fort Dodge Creamery.
89. Cargill Hybrid Seed Company.
90. Firestone Store.
91. Fort Dodge Transportation.



92. Fort Dodge Sign Company.
93. Hamm's Beer.
94. Union Freightways.
95. Union Freightways.
96. Union Freightways.
97. Welcome Wagon.
98. Adolph Licht Float.
99. Lehigh Sewer Pipe & Tile.
100. Ministerial Association.
101. National Gypsum Company.
102. Seven-Up Company.
103. Josephine Johannes Peddicord Studio.
104. Corpus Christi Church.
105. The Stag.
106. National Secretaries Association.
107. Farm Bureau—Colfax Township.
108. Navy Recruiting Station Wagon.
109. Spencer Fair Float.
110. Senior Girl Scouts.
111. Hawkeye Awning & Venetian Blind Co.
112. Fort Dodge Top & Body.
113. Business & Professional Women.
114. Abraham Lincoln Cooper on horse.
115. Burro—C. F. Wright, Bradgate, Iowa.
116. Saddle Club—buggies, rigs, cutters.
117. John Bittner Academy.
118. Herman Kolb—old time seeder.
119. Leo Cavanaugh, 2 Palomino horses.

120. Elk's Club—cutter.
121. M. E. McHenry, buckboard wagon and Indian bareback rider.
122. Dayton Wranglers Club.
123. Ottosen Commercial Club, Ottosen, Iowa.
124. Dr. Thomas, Lehigh, buggy.
125. Leslie Alvord, Burnside, old time cart.
126. Verne Schwendemann, Burnside, old time buggy.
127. Vincent Hayek, Barnum, buggy.
128. Carl Nash, Barnum, covered wagon.
129. R. E. Long, Cities Service, Lehigh, buggy.
130. Dan Lauer, Otho, buggy.
131. William Vegors, Dayton, spring wagon with Ma and Pa Kettle.
132. Mr. and Mrs. Chris Mortensen, Slifer, two-seated spring buggy.
133. Cownie Furs, cutter.
134. Dick Swartzbaugh, pony and cart.
135. Leonard Reinartson, ponies.
136. Fort Dodge Telephone Company.
137. Knights of Columbus Club.
138. Purity Mills.
139. Fort Dodge Maytag Company.
140. Joe Lex Realty Company.
141. Elmer Hall, Hall's Automobile Company, 1914 Sexton car.
142. Fort Dodge Fire Wagon.
143. Brady Transfer & Storage Company.

144. Brady Transfer & Storage.
145. Brady Transfer & Storage.
146. Cy's Delivery with Fire Cart from Lohrville.
147. Emil Goodrich, two seated rig.
148. Gowrie American Legion Auxiliary.
149. M. P. Ray Mattress Company.
150. Somers, Iowa, Float.
151. Marvin Weiss, Bicycle built for two.
152. Cub Scouts.
153. Salvation Army.
154. Salvation Army.
155. Salvation Army.
157. Robert Taylor, rider.
158. Women's Christian Temperance Union.
159. Robert Brainerd, rider.
160. Eugene Leahman, rider.
161. Winkelman, Pony Farm, Lohrville, Iowa.
162. Savage's Inn.

Everyone was wonderful about helping out. The school board allowed us the use of Dodger Stadium without charge. Much of the lumber for the stage we borrowed from the Fort Dodge and Fullerton Lumber companies. The Woodman Electric company did all of the wiring on the field lights for us without charge except for the actual cost of materials and the current we used was donated by the Iowa-Illinois Gas and Electric Company through the courtesy of Cecil Ewen.

## WORK OF KVFD-KFMY STAFF

I would be telling something less than the truth if I omitted mention of the very important part played in the Centennial by the staff of KVFD-KFMY. Virginia Jondle and Berneice Nash listed and handled and returned all of the fifteen hundred articles that came in for window display, and they did not lose or damage a single one. They talked to hundreds of people who came in to see us with information about the Centennial. Les Person kept track of the money as it came in, took care of the bills and saw that they were paid. Ruth McTigue, Bev Carlson and Pat Halligan Cooper took care of hundreds of pieces of wearing apparel that came in for the style show and lost none. Dave Sinclair, Murrell Blount, John Halligan, Harold Leutinger, Earl Larson, Les Person, Max Landes, Johnny Green, Bob Cooper and Ken Peterson put the platform on the stage and decorated it. All the wiring of the stage was done by Dave Sinclair, Harold Leutinger, Earl Larson and John Halligan. Later, these men tore down the stage and stacked the lumber for the lumber companies. Ken Peterson, Drexel Peterson and Murrell Blount wrote page after page of copy about the Centennial and all its activities. Max Landes arranged the 46 interviews with prominent Fort Dodgers. Ken Peterson interviewed Admiral Nimitz and Governor Beardsley and other visiting celebrities. Judy Atwell rode in the old Duncombe carriage as it

was driven by Peter Russell, KVFD custodian. Al Breen numbered the floats for the parade and both he and Bud Taylor assisted in tearing down the stage. Mary Rankin used her program to interview many of the people that were doing important things in connection with the Centennial, was one of Mrs. Wray's committee and served in many other ways. Bob Waggoner, Dick Johnson and Gordon DeKoster were other members of the staff who gave valued assistance to the Centennial program. Everybody at the station worked his heart out during those exciting days that preceded the great celebration.

#### THANKS

To handle the great crowds that thronged into Fort Dodge required the help of every city and state agency. Chief of Police Walter Berg, and his men; Patrol Officer Joe Dixon and his associates, Fire Chief Earl Parks, and the men in the fire department did a magnificent job. There were no traffic accidents and no traffic jams.

All through the planning of the celebration we received the finest cooperation and assistance from William Terrill, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and from his office.

For the best story of the Centennial we are reprinting with his permission, George Mills' story



which appeared in the Des Moines Register of the morning of August 24th:

"FORT DODGE'S CENTURY DAY DRAWS 40,000"

Huge Parade Recalls Pioneer Times—by George Mills.

They'll be talking for a long time to come about the huge centennial celebration staged here Wednesday. An estimated 40,000 persons lined the curbs, sat on roofs and hung out of windows to watch a colorful, two hour parade highlighting the observance of this Gypsum City's 100th birthday.

#### MOST IMPRESSIVE

The spectacle was one of the most impressive seen in Iowa this year.

One hundred years ago, federal troops built Fort Clark here to calm down rambunctious Sioux Indians.

The country hereabouts was wild and woolly then. The Spirit Lake massacre was seven years in the future and the Civil War was not to start for another 11 years.

Right away somebody noticed that there was another Fort Clark and the little log-cabin outpost here was renamed Fort Dodge, after Senator Henry Dodge of Wisconsin.

## RIGHT AT HOME

The long-since-departed senator, and the later pioneers, would have been right at home with some of the things seen in Wednesday's centennial parade.

Not everything was old of course. There were beautiful floats bearing girls prettier than any found in the Egyptian court.

There were marching troops, bands in bright uniforms and high-stepping majorettes. There were shiny convertibles, boats, even an airplane on a float.

## EARLY IOWA

But the real centennial flavor was in the vehicles and clothes of early Iowa. There were carriages that probably are older than the proverbial surrey with the fringe on top. There were bicycles-built-for-two, both the tandem type and the riders side-by-side.

Also, Fort Dodgers unearthed an amazing amount of pioneer clothing that had somehow escaped countless generations of moths.

Great great grand-daughters of early settlers displayed gowns and parasols from the proud long ago. There were swallowtail coats which dated back to weddings half a century or more ago. There were plug hats.

There were a lot of whiskers grown by Fort Dodge citizens in the last few weeks to help bring back the nostalgic past.

## DIDN'T SHAVE

Actually, though, the most luxuriant chin-and-cheek growths were contributed by a dozen or more residents of Palmer.

They held a half-century celebration a few weeks ago and didn't shave them off right away so as to do their bit for the Fort Dodge observance.

Jack Kearns, Fort Dodge, was announced as winner of the beard contest.

Not as old as the horse-drawn carriages but still antique by present-day standards were a dozen or more old automobiles from the Horn collection. Fort Dodgers of 1950 saw these old cars, some from early in the century, operate in the parade under their own power.

The parade gave the big crowd some happy moments away from the problems of the present-day, troubled world. But not for long.

One float, sponsored by a veteran's organization, carried the casket of a soldier. Another pictured a wounded soldier in bed in a hospital.

The centennial day's guest of honor was Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, 65, commander of naval forces in the Pacific during World War II.

He is now traveling around the country, "telling the people that the United Nations and the United States are in grave danger."

The Admiral said the current danger "is the greatest we have faced since the Revolutionary war." Asked if he thought the outlook now is worse than immediately after Pearl Harbor in 1941, he said "yes."

#### FORMIDABLE FOE

"We now have the possibility of a more formidable foe," he said. "If we—the United Nations I mean—should fail to meet and to repel the aggression in Korea, we will be exhibiting the kind of weakness that this test probing in Korea was intended to uncover."

"The extent to which the U. N. succeeds in Korea will determine whether World War III will be postponed, or may be averted."

The admiral now is a public relations consultant to Trygvie Lie, secretary-general of the U. N.

Nimitz is optimistic over the ultimate outcome of the Korean war, although he hinted that that conflict may be a long and drawn-out affair.

He questions the advisability of using the atom bomb in Korea, and he strongly defends the intelligence service which has been charged with "going to sleep while the North Koreans prepared for war."

Regarding the atom bomb, he commented:

"I certainly question the advisability of its use in Korea. The bomb is a weapon of mass destruction. If it is used inaccurately or without discrimination, it

may lose the peace after the war is over, or it may at least make the peace very difficult."

Asked whether that philosophy applied to the atom-bombing of Japanese cities in World War II, the Admiral asked:

"Who knows what is in the minds of the Japanese people now?"

#### ONLY IN MINDS

The Admiral said the intelligence service knew that North Koreans were building up a powerful military force. Powerful Communist forces have been built up elsewhere in the world too, he pointed out.

"What no intelligence agency can tell is when such forces will be used," he commented. "That information is only in the minds of the heads of a dictator state."

In seeking a scapegoat for the present state of affairs, the Admiral suggested that a majority of Americans "go home and look in the mirror."

The big mistake was made in 1945 when we demobilized too fast under pressure "to bring the boys home," he said.

#### SAME MISTAKE

He expressed hope the nation would not make the same mistake when the present crisis comes to an end.

The admiral addressed the evening centennial crowd in Dodger stadium.

Gov. William S. Beardsley was another honored



guest, as were a number of Democratic and Republican nominees for state office in the 1950 elections.

Among them were Lester Gillette, Democratic nominee for governor; W. H. Nicholas, Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, and Iver Christoffersen, Democratic nominee for the same post.

### SNAP PICTURES

The day-long celebration brought out a regiment of amateur photographers who snapped pictures on hundreds of feet of film. They had willing co-operation from all picture subjects except one. A somewhat toothless old Democrat refused to pose with Governor Beardsley, who is a Republican. He didn't have anything particular against the governor "except his politics."

The centennial committee was headed by Ed Breen, Fort Dodge radio official who once was Democratic candidate for governor.

Breen, who sported a not-too-hefty beard after 25 days of effort, said the committee was well pleased with the turn-out.

"Everybody was here but the Cardiff Giant," Breen said.

The Cardiff Giant is a statue that was carved out of rock from this area and advertised first as a fossil of a giant human being. The Cardiff Giant was a famous hoax several decades ago.

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